Welcome

Thank you for purchasing your Sony VAIO® computer! Your new computer is a superb blend of high technology and easy-to-use functionality. The information provided here is designed to help you to become familiar with the hardware and software applications included with your system.

- View the Electronic Flyer, which provides updates and supplemental information about your computer.
- View the VAIO® Computer Specifications, which lists your computer's hardware specifications and preinstalled software information.

Getting Started

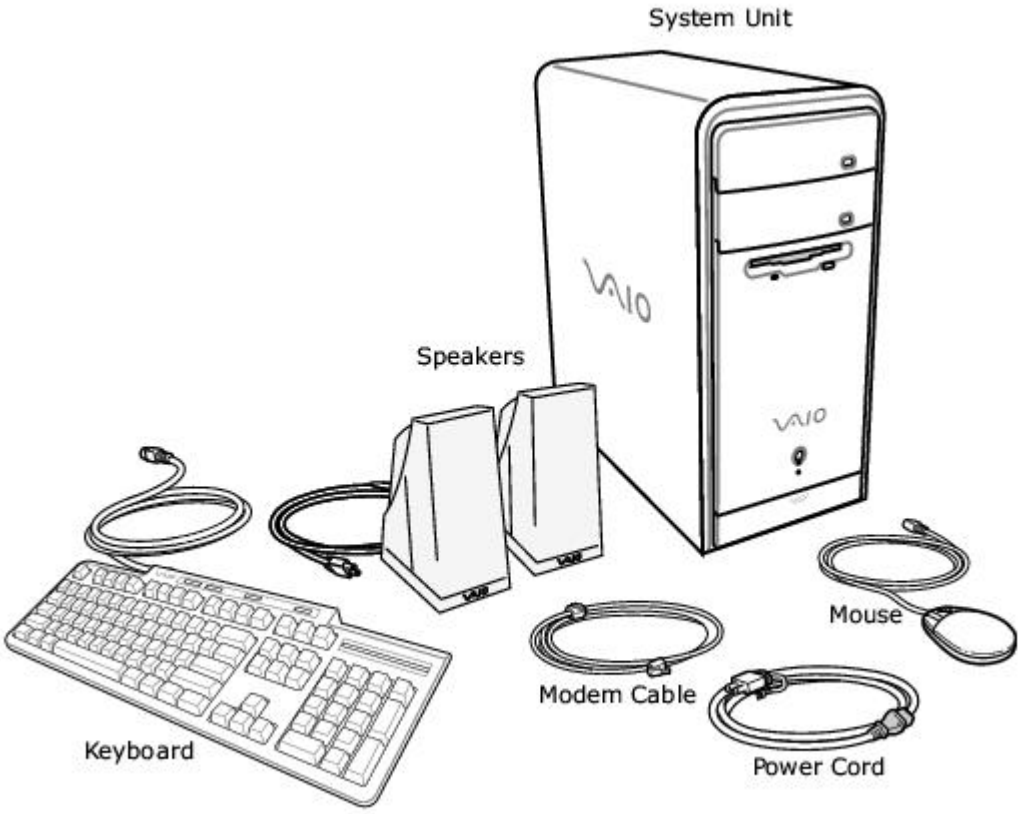
Congratulations on your purchase of the Sony VAIO® computer! Your new, high-performance, multimedia computer combines state-of-the-art computer functionality with the latest audio, video and information technology features.

- Unpacking Your Computer
- Planning An Ergonomic Work Space

Unpacking Your Computer

Your computer may not be supplied with all of the accessories shown, depending on the system configuration you purchased. For details on the accessories supplied with your computer, see the online *Specifications* sheet.

Computer and supplied accessories
(See the online specifications sheet for details about supplied accessories.)



Manuals

- **VAIO® Computer Quick Start** — Provides basic information on setting up and registering your computer. The Quick Start also provides resources for technical support, safety guidelines and owner's information.
- **Microsoft® Windows® XP Guide** — Explains how to use the basic features of the latest Windows operating system.

Online Documentation

- ***VAIO® Computer User Guide —***Contains information on the hardware and preinstalled software applications included with your system. To access the online manual:

  1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **VAIO Help and Support**.
  2. From the VAIO Help and Support Center menu, click **VAIO User Guide**.

- ***Creating DVDs —*** (For models equipped with a DVD-RW drive) This online guide provides information designed to help you become familiar with your DVD-RW drive and the DVD recording software applications included with your computer.

  To access this online information:

  1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **Help and Support**.
  2. From the VAIO Help and Support Center menu, click **Creating DVDs**.

- ***Specifications —*** This online specification sheet describes the hardware and software configuration of your VAIO computer. To view this online information:

  1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **VAIO Help and Support**.
  2. From the VAIO Help and Support menu, click **VAIO User Guide**.

3. Click the **Welcome** link. The Welcome page displays in the right-side frame.

4. Locate the link in the text, "View the VAIO® Computer Specifications..."

Other

Software Library containing the Microsoft software license agreement and Sony end-user license agreement.

Planning An Ergonomic Work Space

Before you set up your new computer, find the best location for your new computer and plan your work space. There are several ergonomic factors to consider when you arrange your work space:

- **Stable work surface** — Use a stable work surface large enough to support the computer and other peripheral equipment.

- **Ventilation** — Leave at least eight inches of space on the left and back sides of your computer to enable proper ventilation.

- **Placement of the keyboard, mouse, and other input devices** — Place your keyboard, mouse, and other input devices so that your arms and hands are in a relaxed, comfortable position. The keyboard should be directly in front of you. Adjust the level of the keyboard so that your lower arms are parallel to the floor. Keep your wrists in a relaxed position when you are using the keyboard—not angled up or down. Use the palmrest only briefly, for resting. While typing, never use the palmrest or rest your hands on the table. Position the mouse at the same level as the keyboard. Hold the mouse with a relaxed hand, and use your whole arm to move it. Take breaks during sessions with your computer. Excessive use of the mouse or a joystick may strain muscles or tendons.

- **Furniture and posture** — Sit in a chair with good back support and armrests. Adjust the level of the chair so your feet are flat on the floor. A footrest may make you more comfortable. Sit with relaxed, upright posture—avoid slouching forward or leaning far backward.

- **Viewing angle of the display** — Position the display 18 to 26 inches directly in front of you, with the top of the screen at or a little below eye level. Use the display's tilting feature to find the best position. You can reduce eye strain and muscle fatigue by placing the display in the proper position.

- **Lighting —** Choose a location where windows and lights do not create glare and reflection on the display. Use indirect lighting to avoid bright spots on the display. You can also purchase accessories for your display that help reduce glare. Proper lighting adds to your comfort and work effectiveness.

Locating Controls And Ports

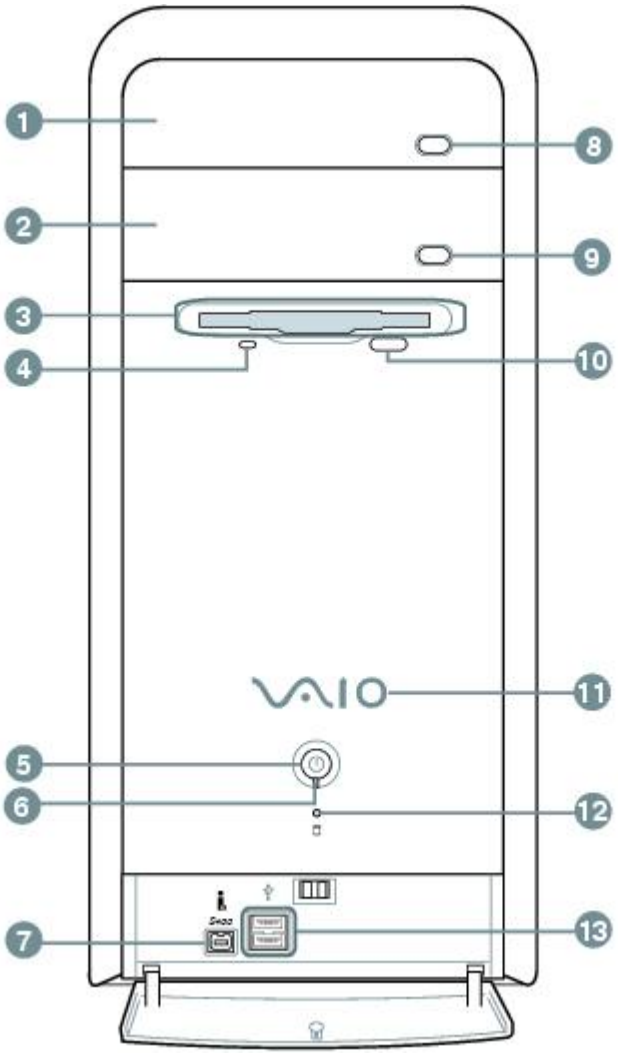
This section is intended to familiarize you with the controls, ports and jacks on your computer. Your computer may not be equipped with all of these hardware features and the location of the controls, ports, and jacks may vary from the illustrations shown in this section. To view the specific connection capabilities for your system, see the online specifications sheet.

- About the Front Panel
- About the Back Panel
- About the Keyboard

About the Front Panel

The front panel of your VAIO® Computer enables access to the optical and floppy disk drives. It also includes access to the Universal Serial Bus (USB) and i.LINK® ports that enable you to connect compatible peripheral devices.

Front panel



1 Optical drive 1

See the online specifications sheet for optical drive information.

2 Optical drive 2

See the online specifications sheet for optical drive information.

3 Floppy disk drive

Reads and writes data from and to a 3.5-inch floppy disk.

4 Floppy disk drive access indicator

Light is green while reading and writing data from and to a floppy disk.

5 Power button

The power button turns the computer on/off.

6 Standby indicator

Light is amber when the computer is in Stand by mode.

7 i.LINK 4-pin port (IEEE 1394)

Connection for a compatible digital device.

8 Optical drive 1 eject button

Ejects a disc from Optical drive 1.

9 Optical drive 2 eject button

Ejects a disc from Optical drive 2.

10 Floppy disk eject button

Ejects a floppy disk.

11 Power indicator (VAIO)

Light is blue when the computer is on. The light turns off when the computer is in Standby mode or turned off.

12 Hard disk drive and optical disc drive access indicator

Light is amber while reading and writing data.

13 Universal Serial Bus (USB 2.0) ports (2)

Connections for compatible high/full/low-speed USB devices.

For your convenience, your computer includes USB and i.LINK ports on both the front and back panels. The 4-pin i.LINK port is located on the front panel and the 6-pin i.LINK port is located on the back.

Additional information

Your computer is equipped with two optical disc drives that have a drive eject button on the drive door.

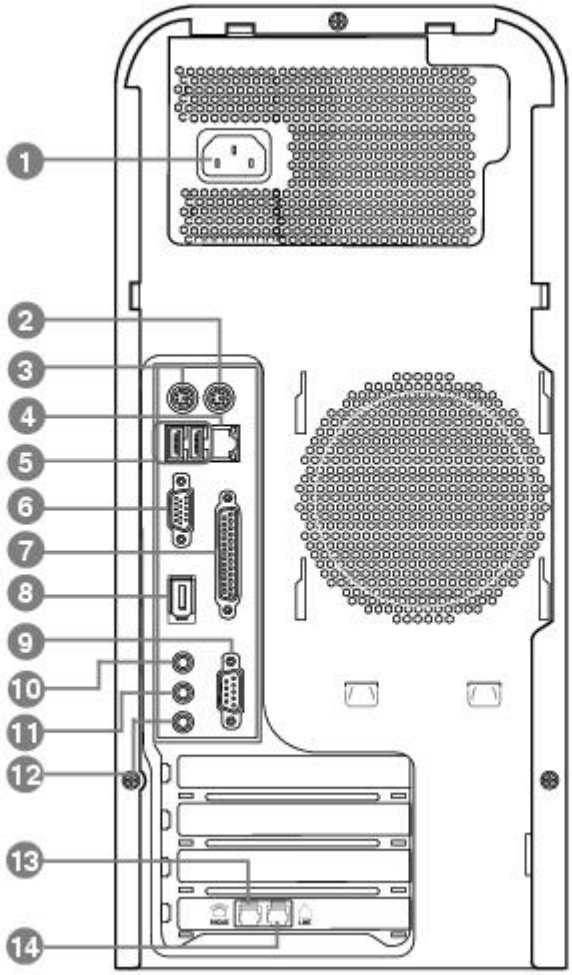
- After pushing the eject button, wait for the drive to stop reading the CD. It may take a few moments for the drive tray to eject.
- Gently push the drive tray in, when closing the optical drive door. Do not force the door or handle roughly.
- After closing the drive door, wait a few moments for the drive to begin reading the CD.

About the Back Panel

The back panel of your computer contains the ports for supplied and optional accessories. The icons on the back panel locate and identify the ports and jacks on your computer.

Your system may vary based on the configuration you purchased.

Back panel



1 AC Input port

Connection for the supplied power cord.

2 Mouse port

Connection for a PS/2® mouse.

3 Keyboard port

Connection for a PS/2® keyboard.

4 Ethernet port

Connection for a 10BASE-T/100BASE-TX Ethernet interface. (The port marked with (Network) is for LAN connections only.)

5 Universal Serial Bus (USB 2.0) ports (2)

Connections for compatible high/full/low-speed USB devices.

6 Monitor port

Connection for a display.

7 Printer port

Connection for a parallel device, such as a printer or scanner.

8 i.LINK 6-pin port (IEEE 1394)

Connection for a compatible digital device.

9 Serial port

Connection for a compatible serial device, such as a digital still camera.

10 Headphones jack

Connection for the supplied speakers or optional headphones.

11 Line In jack

Connection for an audio device.

12 Microphone jack

Connection for a microphone (optional).

13 Telephone jack

Connection for a telephone cable (optional) to the computer.

14 Modem line jack

Connection for the modem cable to the wall jack.

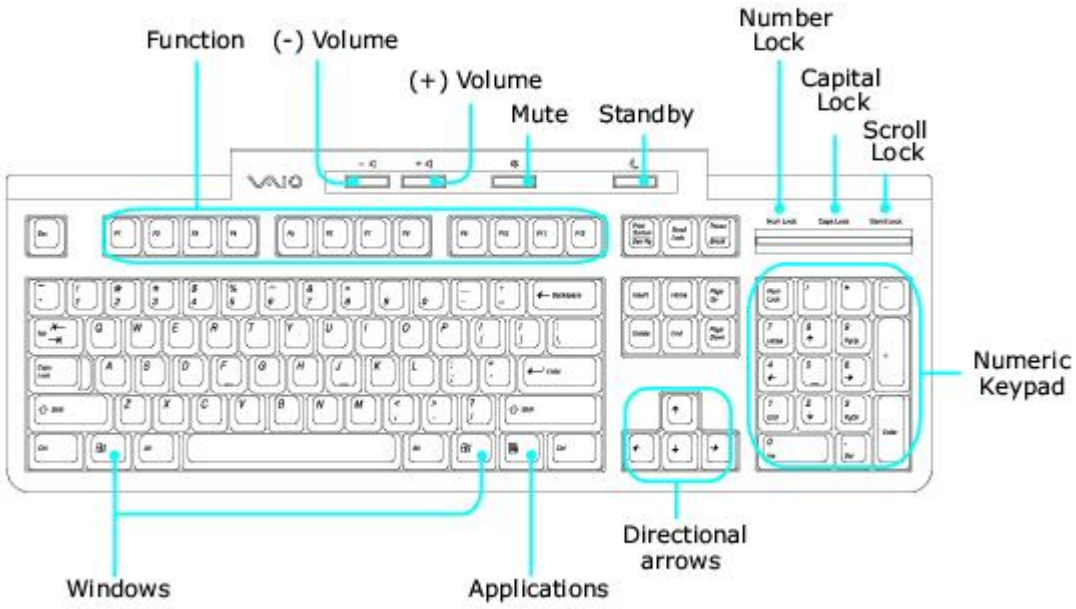
✍ i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE 1394 connection. The i.LINK connection may vary, depending on the software applications, operating system, and compatible i.LINK devices. All products with an i.LINK connection may not communicate with each other.

Please refer to the documentation that came with your compatible i.LINK device for information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK devices to your system, such as an optical or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

About the Keyboard

Your VAIO® keyboard uses a standard key arrangement with additional keys that perform specific functions.

VAIO Keyboard



KEY **DESCRIPTION**

Function The 12 function keys along the top of the keyboard are used to perform certain tasks. The task associated with each function key may vary from one application to the next.

Volume Control Press a button to increase (+) or decrease (-) the volume of the speakers.

Mute Press the button to turn off the volume of the speaker. Press the Mute button again to restore sound.

Standby Press the button to place the computer in Standby mode. Press the Power button or any key briefly, to resume normal operation.

Numeric keypad Use the numeric keypad area to type numbers or to perform basic math calculations. Press the Num Lock key to activate the numeric keypad. (The Num Lock indicator lights.) Press the Num Lock key again to deactivate the numeric keypad.

Directional Arrows The Up, Down, Left, and Right arrow keys move the pointer on the screen.

Applications

The Applications key displays a shortcut menu in certain software applications. Pressing this key is equivalent to clicking the right mouse button.

Windows

The key with the Microsoft® Windows® logo, displays the Start menu. Pressing this key is equivalent to clicking Start on the taskbar.

INDICATORS FUNCTION

Num Lock The Num Lock indicator lights when the numeric keypad is activated. When the indicator is off, the directional

arrow and correction keys on the numeric keypad area are active.

Caps Lock The Caps Lock indicator lights up to advise you that the keyboard is set to type letters in uppercase. When the indicator is off, the letters appear in lower case as you type.

Scroll Lock The Scroll Lock indicator lights up to advise you that your screen's scrolling pattern has changed. When the indicator is off, the screen scrolls normally. This function is not available with all software applications.

Setting Up Your Computer

Your computer may not be equipped with all of these hardware features and the location of the controls, ports, and jacks may vary from the illustrations shown in this section. See the online specifications sheet for your system's configuration.

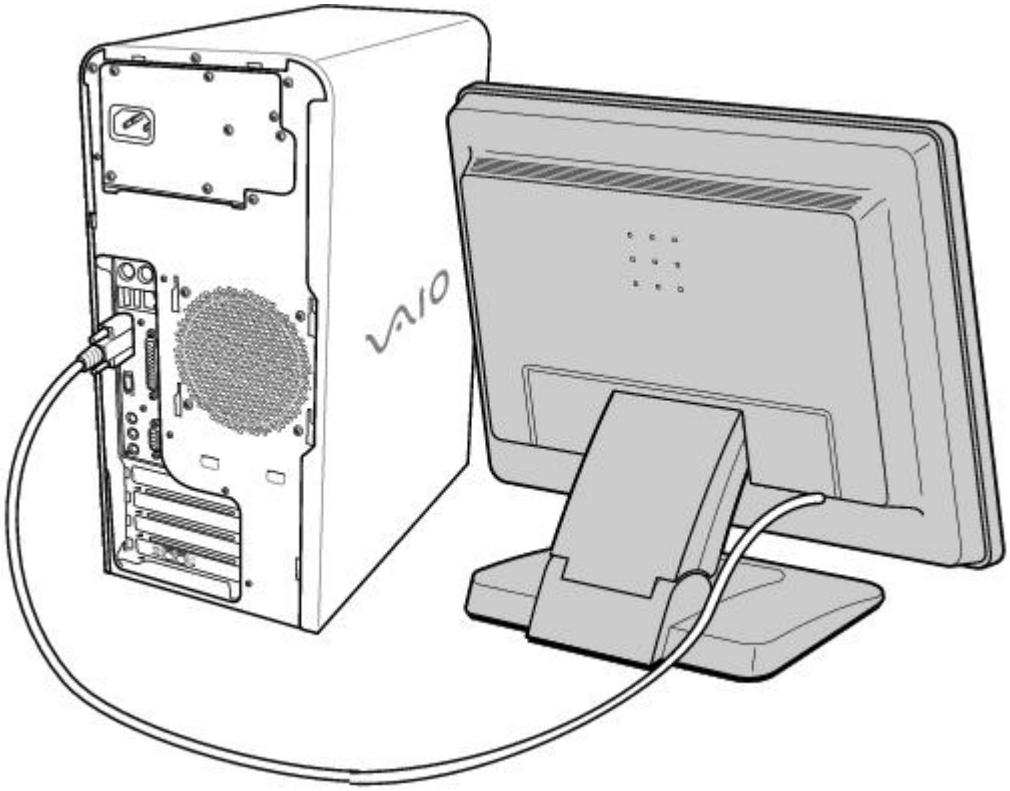
- Connecting a Display (Monitor)
- Connecting the Speakers
- Connecting the Keyboard and Mouse
- Connecting the Telephone and Modem Cables
- Connecting the Power Cords
- Turning On Your Computer
- Registering your Computer
- Setting Up your Dial-up Connection
- Turning Off your Computer

Connecting a Display (Monitor)

Plug the display's cable into the Monitor port.

If necessary, plug the display's cable into the back of the display.

To connect a display



Install your equipment so that you can easily reach the power outlet in the event of an emergency.

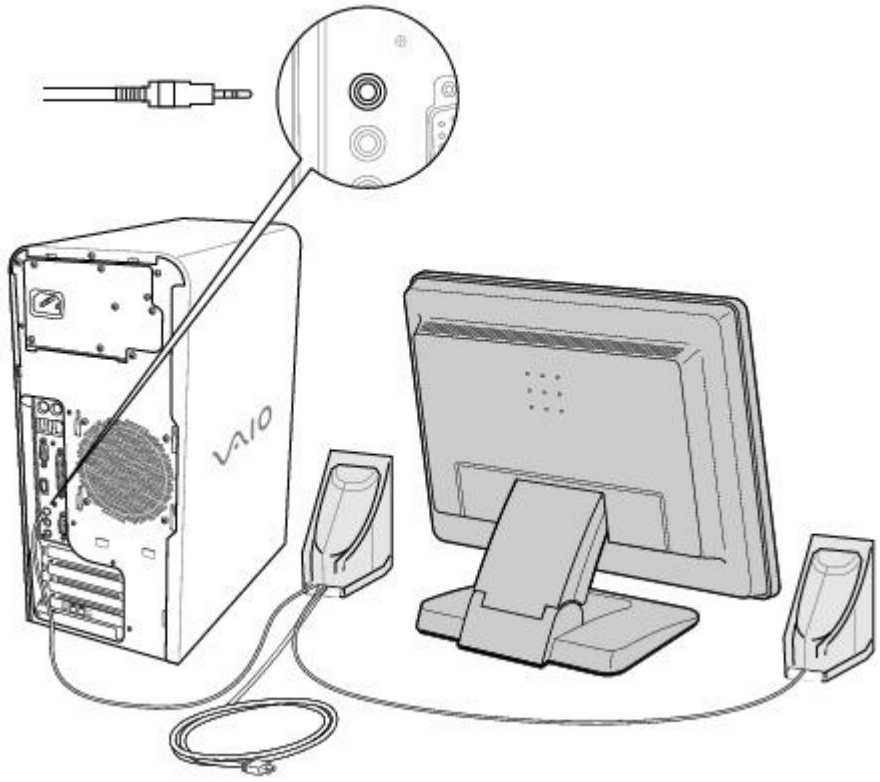
Connecting the Speakers

The right and left speakers are attached. The right speaker has a speaker wire that ends in a jack connector and an AC cord that supplies power to both speakers.

1. From the right speaker, plug the jack connector into the Headphones jack located on the back panel of your computer.

2. From the right speaker, insert the the AC adapter plug into a grounded AC wall outlet or surge supressor.

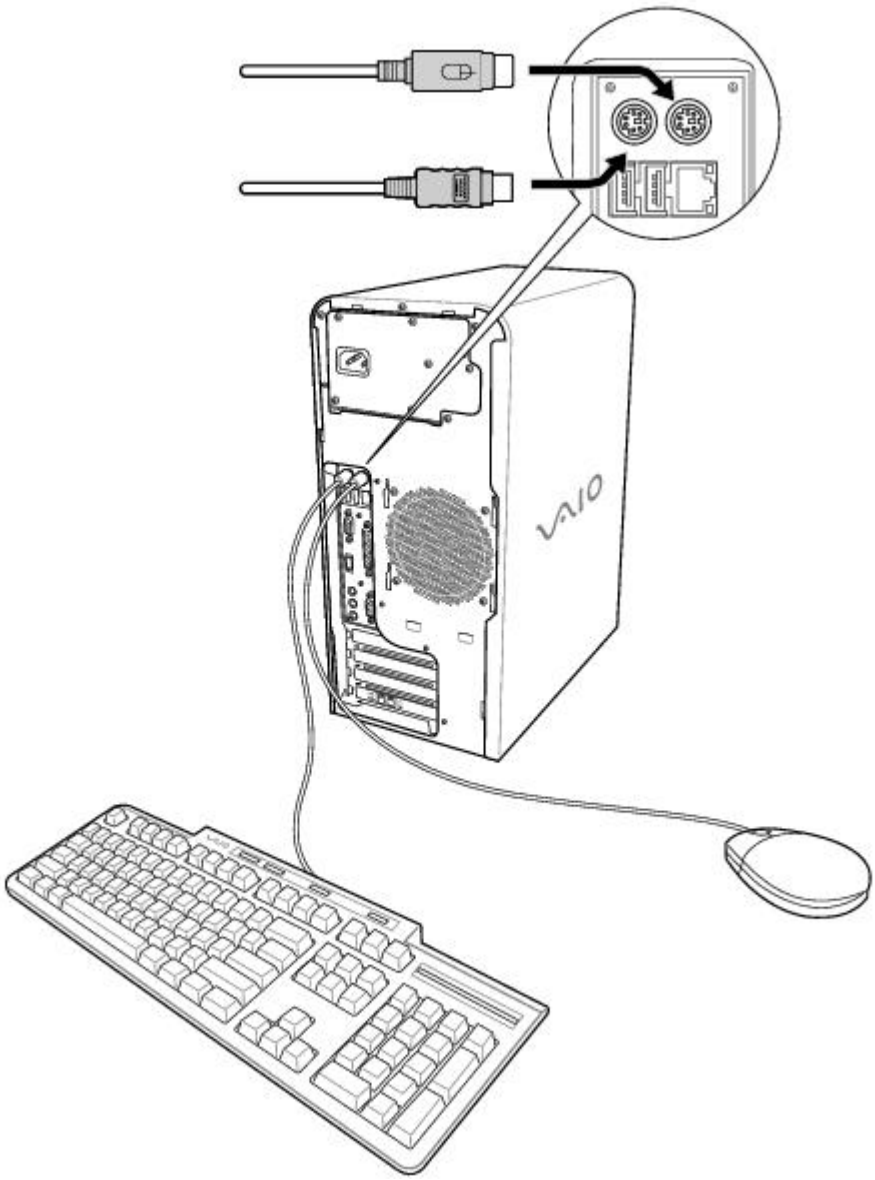
To connect the speakers



Connecting the Keyboard and Mouse

1. Plug the keyboard cable into the keyboard port on the back of the computer.
2. Plug the mouse cable into the mouse port on the back of the computer.

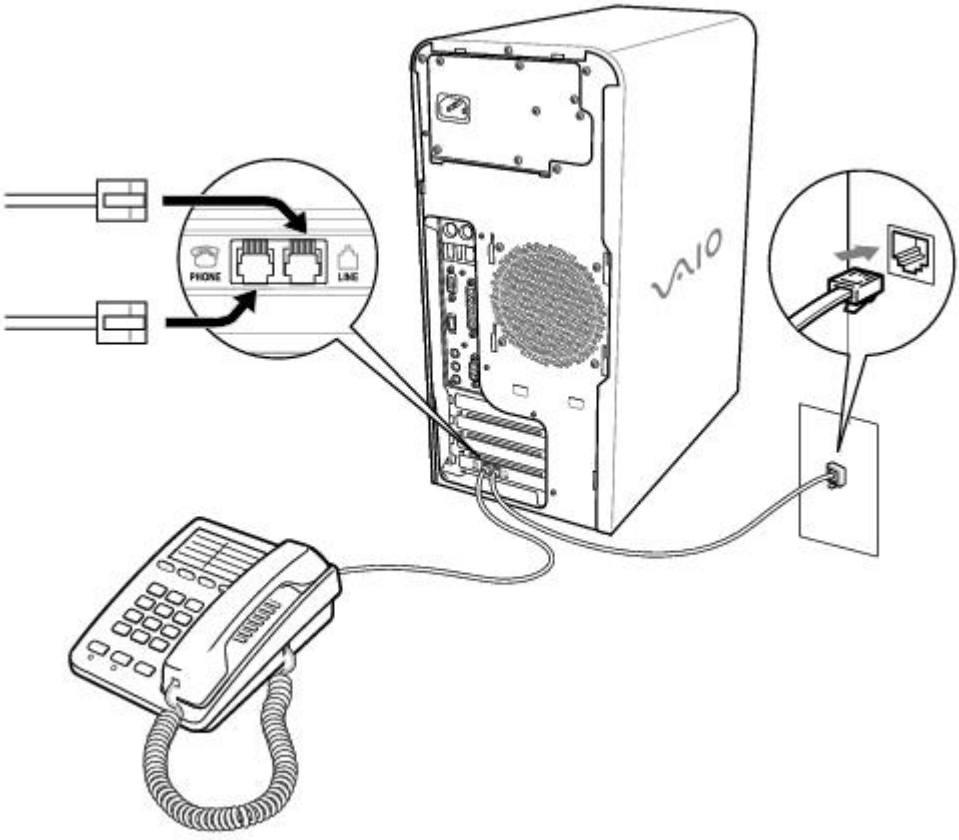
To connect the keyboard and mouse



Connecting the Telephone and Modem Cables

1. Unplug your telephone from the wall jack and plug its cable into the telephone jack located on the back panel of your computer.
2. Plug the modem cable (supplied) into the modem line jack located on the back panel of your computer
3. Plug the other end of the modem cable into the wall jack.

To connect the telephone and modem cables

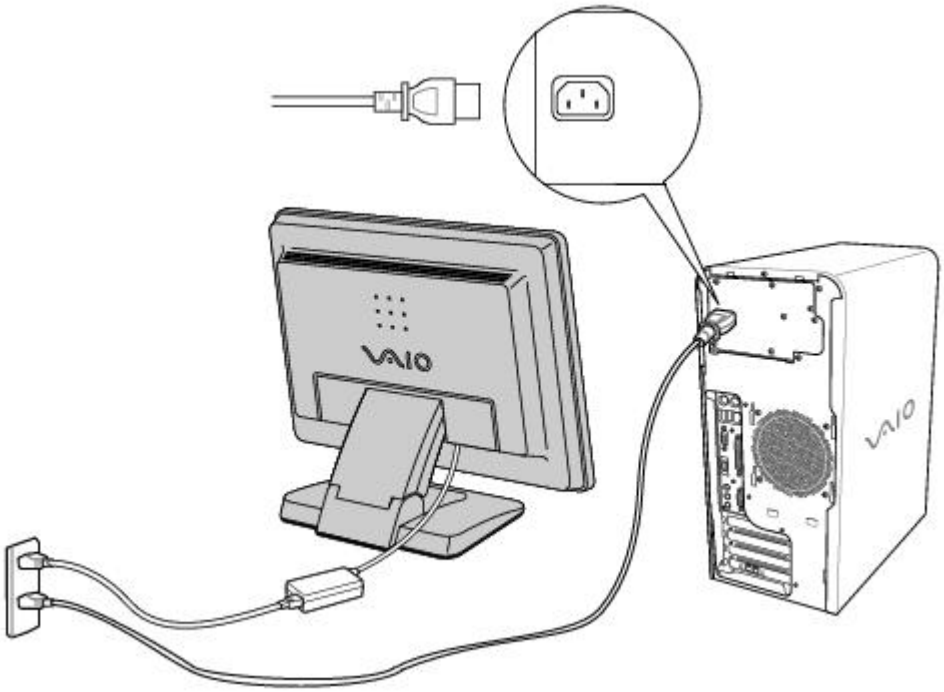


⚠ **Your computer has a protective sticker covering the Ethernet port located on the rear panel. Connect only 10BASE-T and 100BASE-TX cables to the Ethernet port. Using other cables or a telephone cable may result in an electric current overload that can cause a malfunction, excessive heat, or fire in the Ethernet port. For help on connecting to a network, see your network administrator.**

Connecting the Power Cords

1. Plug the power cord connector into the AC Input port, located on the back panel of the computer.
2. Plug both the display and computer power cords into a grounded AC wall outlet or a power strip.

To connect the power cords

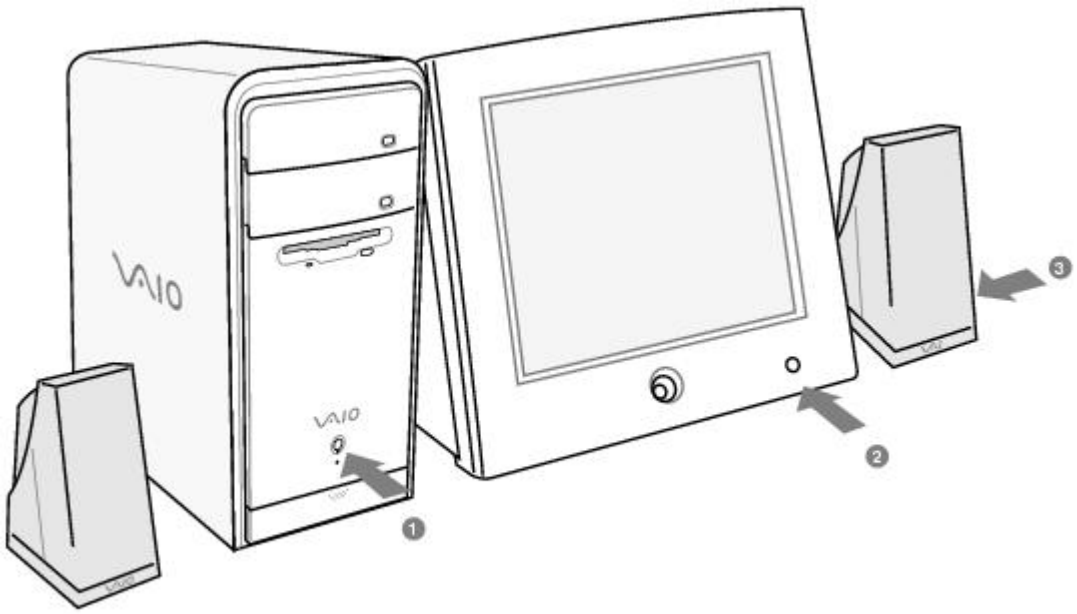


Turning On Your Computer

When you start your system for the first time, your computer may detect new equipment and display a dialog box that prompts you to restart your computer. Respond to this prompt immediately.

1. Press the power button on the computer to turn on the power.
2. Press the power button on the display to turn on the power.
3. Press the power button, located on the side of the right speaker, to turn on the power.

To turn on your computer



Registering your Computer

Take advantage of Sony's commitment to quality customer support and receive these benefits by registering your computer:

- **Sony Customer Support —** Communicate with a Support Representative to troubleshoot problems you may be having with your computer.
- **Limited warranty —** Protect your investment. See the Warranty Card for more details.

You are prompted to register your computer the first time you turn on the unit. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the registration process. If you are not able to register your computer during the first session, you are provided with additional registration opportunities later.

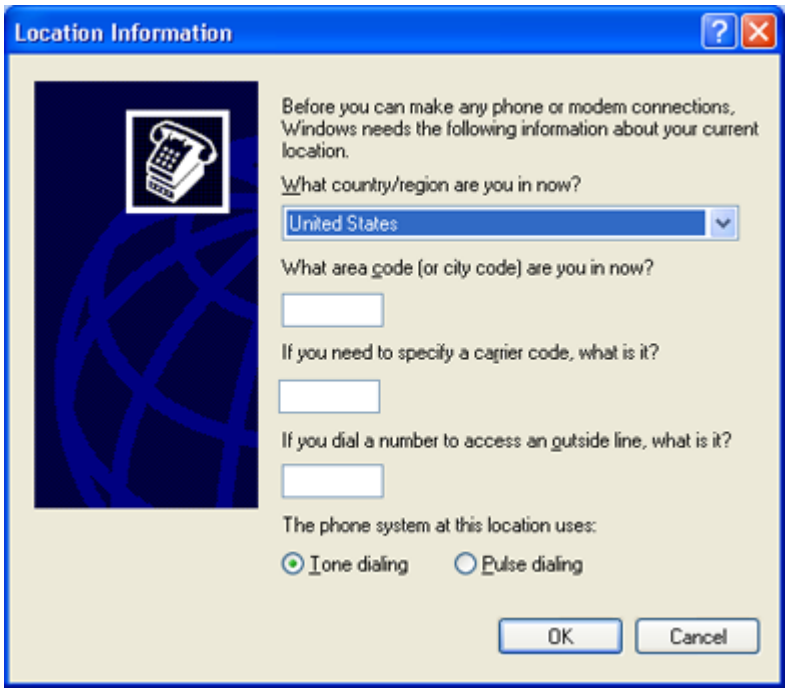
Setting Up your Dial-up Connection

The first time you turn your computer on, follow these steps to set up your dial-up connection:

1. Click **Start** from the Windows taskbar and select **All Programs**.

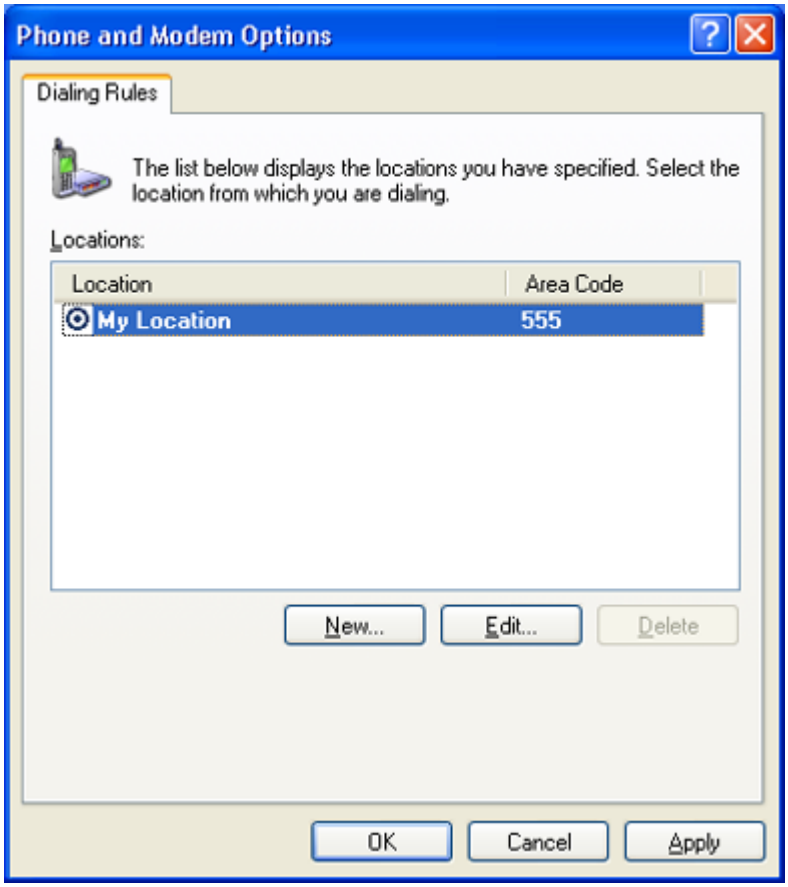
2. Point to **Accessories**, point to **Communications**, and then click **New Connection Wizard**. The Location Information window appears.

Location Information window


Location Information
Before you can make any phone or modem connections, Windows needs the following information about your current location.
What country/region are you in now?
United States
What area code (or city code) are you in now?
If you need to specify a carrier code, what is it?
If you dial a number to access an outside line, what is it?
The phone system at this location uses:
Tone dialing
Pulse dialing
OK
Cancel

3. Enter in your information as requested. Click **OK**. The Phone and Modem Options window appears.

Phone and Modem Options window



4. Click to select your dialing location and then click **OK**. The New Connection Wizard appears.

New Connection Wizard window

New Connection Wizard
Welcome to the New Connection Wizard
This wizard helps you:
• Connect to the Internet.
• Connect to a private network, such as your workplace network.
• Set up a home or small office network.
To continue, click Next.
< Back
Next >
Cancel

5. Follow the on-screen instructions to finish setting up your dial-up connection.

Turning Off your Computer

Follow these steps when you are ready to turn off your computer for an extended period of time.

To avoid loss of data, do not use the Power button to turn off the computer.

To turn off your computer

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then select **Turn Off Computer**.

   The Turn Off Computer dialog box appears.

2. Select the **Turn Off** option.

   Respond to any prompts about saving your documents.

3. Wait for your computer to turn off automatically—the power indicator light turns off.

4. Turn off any peripheral devices connected to your computer.

If you plan to turn off your computer for a short period of time, you may want to use Stand by mode instead.

About the power button

If your system stops responding, press and hold the Power button for more than six seconds to force your system to shut down. You may need to repeat this procedure if your system does not shut down on the first attempt.

VAIO AV Applications

Your VAIO® computer has a collection of preinstalled audio and video (AV) applications that make it easy to use your system's advanced multimedia features.

✍ Your computer may not be supplied with all of the software applications listed, depending on the system configuration you purchased.

Your computer's visual presentation of the VAIO AV applications may not appear exactly as shown in this section, depending on the specific computer model you purchased.

- Overview of Software
- Working with Digital Video
- Using DVgate Software
- Working with Still Images
- Using PictureGear Studio Software
- Working with Digital Music
- Using SonicStage software
- Sharing Video, Images, and Music on a Network
- Using VAIO Media Software

Overview of Software

- **DVgate software**—offers advanced video import and export features, as well as precise editing. DVgate software provides control over all aspects of capturing, editing, and exporting digital video. After editing your creations, you can export them back to your video camera.

- **PictureGear Studio software**— enables image importing from your digital camera. You can create your own unique photo art by adding comments, custom backgrounds, clip art, and stamps to your digital images.

- **SonicStage software**—shows creative ways to work with digital music from audio CDs and from the Internet. SonicStage software provides a music visualizer, a sleek player skin design, audio CD burning capability, and a parametric equalizer for fine-tuning audio playback.

- **VAIO Media software**—makes it easy to share video, images, and music between the VAIO computers on a network. A single VAIO computer becomes the media server, providing a central location for all your video, image, and music files, with easy access from any VAIO computer connected to a wired or wireless network.

Working with Digital Video

The multimedia software preinstalled on your VAIO® computer makes it easy to import and edit videos from a compatible digital video (DV) or MICROMV camera equipped with an i.LINK® port.

You can save finished movies to your hard disk drive to use on the Internet, to send to others by e-mail, or to distribute on CD media using a CD-recording drive or device.

The basic procedures for working with digital video, are as follows:

1. Connect a compatible digital video (DV) or MICROMV camera to your computer using an i.LINK® cable.
2. Start the video editing software.
3. Use the video editing software to capture video clips from the DV camera.
4. Use the video editing software to assemble the clips into a finished movie.
5. Use the video editing software to export the finished movie back to the video camera.

Using DVgate Software

This is a brief overview of DVgate software. For more detailed information, refer to the DVgate software Help. For information about connecting your digital video camera to your computer, see the manual supplied with your camera.

DVgate software provides control over capturing, trimming, and combining digital video clips from a compatible digital video (DV) camera. Combine your clips into a finished movie and export it back to your compatible digital video camera.

DVgate software does not support MICROMV video cameras.

Capturing digital video with DVgate software

1. Connect an i.LINK® cable (optional) between the i.LINK ports on your computer and on a compatible digital video (DV) camera.

2. Turn on the DV camera and insert a videotape. Set the camera to Recording mode. (On some camera models this is called VCR or VTR mode.)

3. From the Windows® taskbar, click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, point to **DVgate**, and then click **DVgate Motion**.

   The DVgate Motion software starts.

4. Select **IMPORT** - **Auto** from the **MODE** list in the **DVgate Motion** window, and click **SCAN**.

   The DVgate Motion software scans your tape and creates a list of video clips to be captured. The list appears in the **IN/OUT list** window.

   ✍ You can manually specify video clips to be captured while viewing playback of your tape in the **Monitor** window. Refer to the DVgate Help for more information.

5. If necessary, edit the list of video clips to be captured.

   - Delete a clip from the list by selecting it, and then clicking **DELETE**.
   - Change the order in which clips are captured by dragging them up or down on the list.
   - To capture all the video clips on the **IN/OUT** list, click **CAPTURE ALL**.
   - To capture an individual clip, click it in the **IN/OUT list** window and click **CAPTURE**.

     The **Save as a file** window appears. This window enables you specify a location on your hard disk drive where the video clips is saved. In most cases, the default location of your D: drive partition is a good choice. You can also specify how DVgate Motion names your clip files.

   - Click **Save**.

     The **Batch capturing**... window appears, and DVgate Motion captures your video clips to you hard disk drive.

Editing digital video with DVgate software

DVgate software enables you to combine your captured video clips into a single movie. You can also trim the beginning and end of each clip, so you only include the scenes you desire.

1. Click **Start**, click **All Programs**, point to **DVgate**, and click **DVgate Assemble.**

   DVgate Assemble starts.

2. Click **ADD**.

   The **ADD** dialog box appears.

3. In the **ADD** dialog box, select the video clip files you want to include in your combined movie, and click **Open**.

   - You can select multiple clips by holding down the **Ctrl** key and clicking several files.
   - Your selected clips appear in the **Assemble** list in the **DVgate Assemble** window.

4. If necessary, edit the order of clips in the **Assemble** list.

   For the combined movie, clips are combined in the order they appear in the **Assemble** list, starting from the top.

   - To rearrange the order, drag clips up and down the list.
   - To remove a clip from the list, click it, and click **DELETE**.
   - To copy a clip, click it, click **Copy** on the **Edit** menu, click the location on the list where you want the copy to be placed, and click **Insert** on the **Edit** menu.

5. If necessary, trim your video clips to include only the scenes you want included in the final movie, using these steps:

   - Double-click a clip. The clip opens in the **DVgate Assemble** - **Clip** window.
   - Drag the slider to the point in the clip where your chosen scene begins.
   - Click **BEGIN**.
   - Drag the slider to the point in the clip where your chosen scene ends. Click **END**.

     To view your trimmed clip, make sure the **BEGIN**-**END** check box is not selected. Use the **Play** button to play your clip.

     If the **BEGIN**-**END** check box is selected, the entire clip is played back.

     ✍ You can also set the starting and stopping points for your scene by playing the clip with the function buttons, then clicking **BEGIN** and **END** when the clip reaches your chosen begin and end points

   - Click **OK** to save your changes and close **DVgate Assemble** - **Clip** window.

6. When you have set the order of your clips and trimmed them to include only the scenes you want, you can preview the entire finished movie by clicking **PREVIEW ALL** in the main window.

7. Click **OUTPUT ALL** to save your finished movie to your hard disk drive.

   The **Save As** dialog box appears.

8. Save your movie to the desired location, type a name for your movie, and click **Save**.

✍ If you intend later to export your movie to your digital video camera, be sure to select **AVI file (*.avi)** in the **Save as type:** box before saving your movie.

Exporting a finished movie to your digital video camera

After you have created a finished movie, you can export it back to your digital video (DV) camera.

1. Make sure your camera is set to recording mode. (On some camera models this is called VCR or VTR mode.)
2. Turn on your DV camera, and insert a videotape.
3. On your computer, click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, point to **DVgate**, and then click **DVgate Motion**.

   The DVgate Motion software starts.
4. Select **EXPORT** - **Auto** from the **MODE** list in the **DVgate Motion** window.
5. In the **DVgate Motion - AVI file list** window, click **ADD**. If the **DVgate Motion - AVI file list** window is not open, click **List** on the **Window** menu.

   The **ADD** dialog box appears.
6. In the **ADD** dialog box, select the movie file you want to export, and click **Open**.

   The **ADD** dialog box closes, and your selected movie appears in the **Record** list in the **DVgate Motion - AVI file list** window.
7. Click **RECORD ALL**.

   The **Output** dialog box appears.
8. Click **OK**.

   The **Output** dialog box closes, and recording to your DV camera begins.

Additional Information about using DVgate software

- Turn off the power to your digital video camcorder before connecting it to your computer. After connecting the device, turn its power back on. You do not need to turn off the computer when connecting the camcorder.
- DVgate software does not support MICROMV digital video cameras.
- Under the Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system, do not capture DV- AVI video files to the root directory (the top level) of your hard disk drive. Instead, create a folder and capture files to this folder.
- Do not use DVgate software when the connected digital video device is in Timer Recording mode, as this may produce a malfunction in the device.
- Video captures larger than 2 GB (9 minutes and 30 seconds) are automatically continued in a second file.
- You can record stereo audio (stereo 1) while capturing video, or you can add audio on the stereo 2 track after capturing the video data.
- You cannot use different audio modes on the same tape. Perform a separate capture for each audio mode you wish to use.
- DVgate software does not support hard disk compression. Do not use disk compression if you are planning to work with DVgate software.
- Title data is saved in the flash memory of a digital video camera and is not transferred to tape by DVgate software.
- Disable your screen saver program to avoid interruption during your capture sessions.
- The drop frame compensation feature does not provide accurate compensation adjustments for tapes recorded in LP mode.
- The information displayed by the capture progress indicator may not be accurate for tapes that are recorded using a mixture of both SP and LP modes.
- Keep the video head of your digital video device properly cleaned. Anomalies that you see in captured data may be due to dust or other particles on the video head.

- The last frame captured is one frame before your selected [OUT] point. The frame you see immediately after clicking the [OUT] button is not captured.
- DVgate software supports recording of AVI files. MPEG files cannot be recorded with this software.
- Do not use DVgate software when the connected digital video device is in Timer Recording mode, as this could produce a malfunction in the device.
- Avoid recording problems, such as a single frame appearing in multiple frames, by closing other applications on your system while recording.
- You cannot use multiple audio modes on the same tape. If you have AVI files that use different audio modes, the files cannot be recorded at the same time, but must be recorded separately.
- The DVgate software does not support AVI files that are smaller than 4 MB.
- The DVgate software does not support hard disk compression.
- To maximize recording capabilities, video and audio data are not available while you are recording.
- If the DVgate software indicates that frames are dropped, try closing all open applications or defragmenting your hard drive.

Working with Still Images

The Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system contains software that can import pictures from many of the newer Universal Serial Bus (USB) digital cameras. After connecting a USB cable between your camera and computer, Windows XP walks you through the process of transferring your pictures from the camera to your computer.

About digital cameras and storage media

Some digital cameras store pictures on floppy disks or Memory Stick® media that you can remove from the camera and insert into your computer. When the floppy disk or Memory Stick media is inserted into your computer, you can copy your pictures to your hard disk drive.

About cameras without USB connectivity

If your digital camera does not have a USB connection or is not directly supported by the Windows XP operating system, see the manual supplied with your camera for information on connecting your camera to your computer and transferring images.

- If you want to get traditional printed photographs into your computer, use a scanner.

  A scanner is a device that can transfer pictures by:

  1. Connecting to your computer.
  2. Scanning your pictures
  3. Enabling transfer to your computer.

  The Windows XP operating system contains the software that is compatible with different scanners. To use a scanner that is not supported by Windows XP, see the information supplied with your scanner.

- Some companies that develop traditional film photographs can provide your images on a CD-ROM or floppy disk. Consult your film developer for details.

Using PictureGear Studio Software

PictureGear Studio software is designed to creatively manage your digital pictures. With its easy-to-use features, you can quickly load images from your digital camera or camcorder, print high-quality photos, create custom labels, and design personalized photo albums or binders to share with friends and family.

PictureGear Studio main window

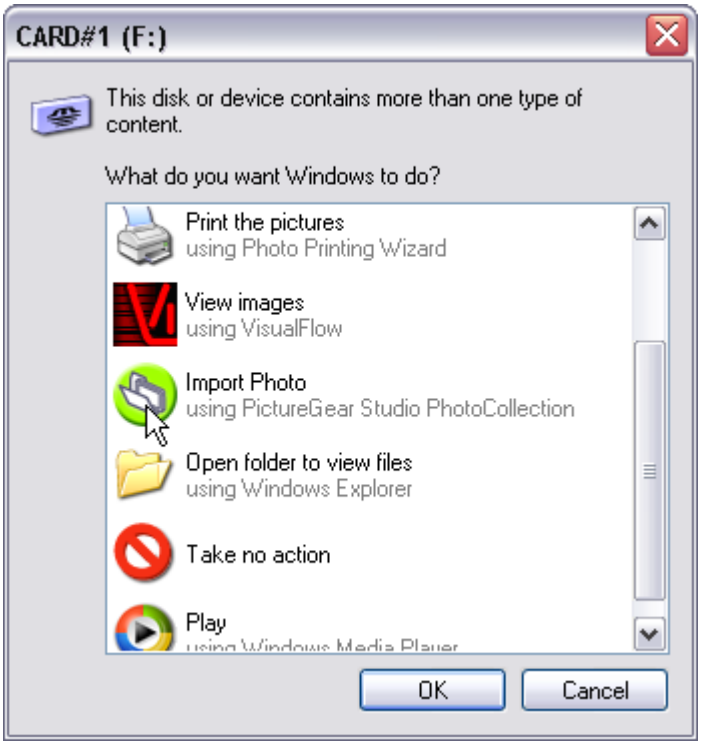
Photo albums, binders, and photo collections can only be viewed or edited using PictureGear Studio software. To share a PictureGear Studio creation over the Internet or by using another computer, use the Export feature. See the section, To export a photo album.

Using the Import Photo feature

Capture and import the pictures from your digital camera or camcorder to your computer. You can select your favorite pictures and place them in handy folders for future use.

When you initially connect your digital camera, camcorder or insert a Memory Stick® media, Windows® XP may attempt to recognize the device or media. An identification window may appear.

Windows XP device/media identification window

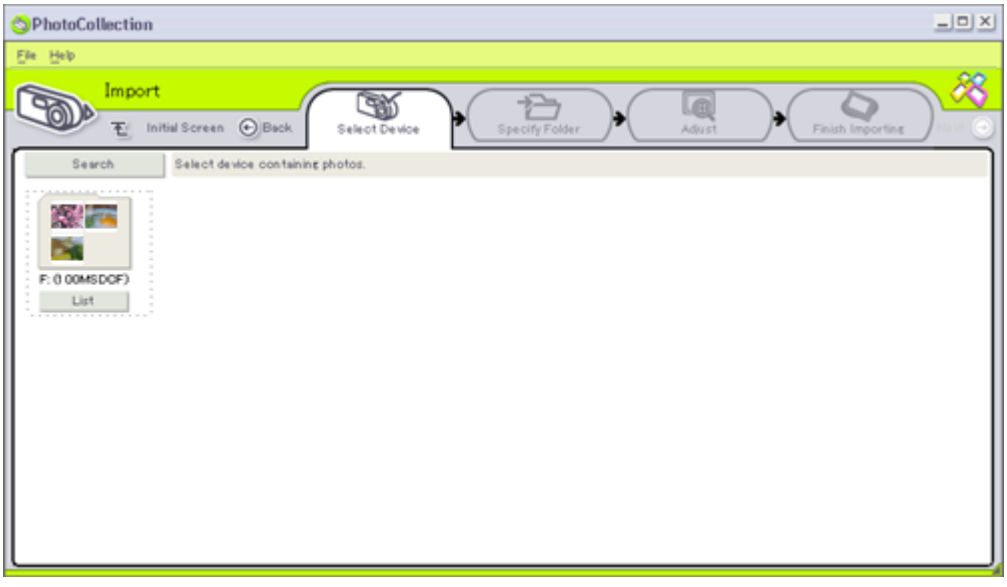


Select **Import Photo using PictureGear Studio PhotoCollection**, to proceed directly to the PhotoCollection Import Window (See Step 2).

1. Click **Import Photo**. Your connected digital camera, camcorder, or Memory Stick® media is displayed in a **Select Device** window.

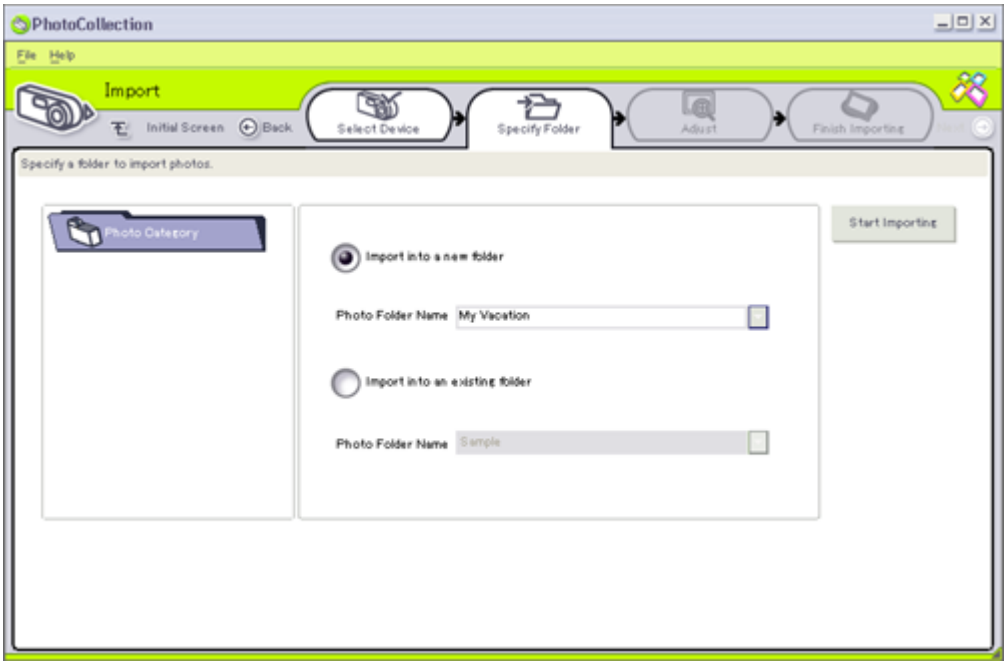
   ✍ Connect your digital camera or camcorder to your computer, or insert your Memory Stick media into the appropriate slot, before attempting to import pictures.

Select Device window



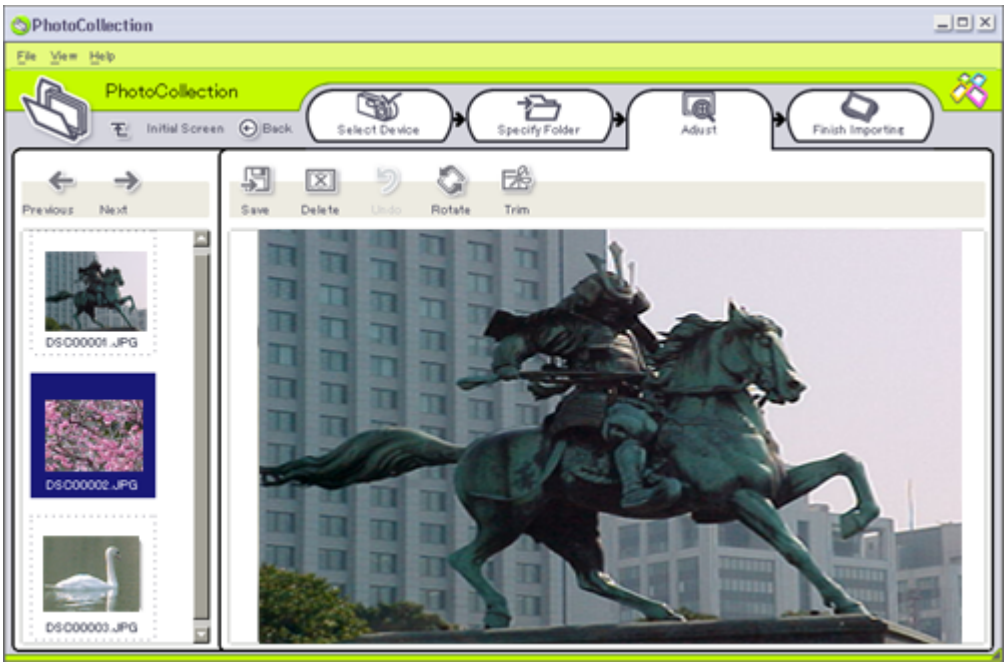
2. Click **List** to view all pictures that are located on the device or media. Make your selections and click **Import Selected Photos**. A **Specify Folder** window appears.

Specify Folder window



3. Select a folder option. If you are importing to a new folder, type in the folder name before clicking **Start Importing**. An **Adjust** window appears.

Adjust window



4. Click to make any desired adjustments to the pictures. The Adjust window displays an enlarged version of the picture on the right and thumbnail versions on the left.

   - **Save** to relocate the individual picture to a new folder.
   - **Delete** to remove the picture from the photo collection.
   - **Rotate** to change the picture's position.
   - **Trim** to crop the picture or capture a specific area.

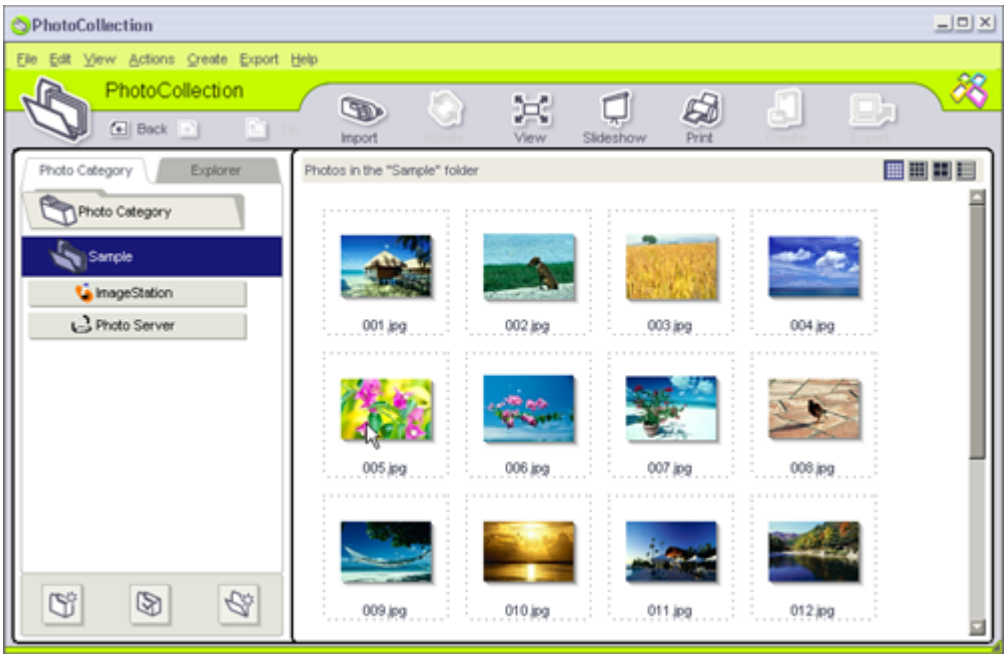
5. Click **Finish Importing** to save the imported pictures in a photo collection.

Using the PhotoCollection feature

You can organize and manage your imported pictures on your computer's hard drive or from your ImageStation℠ account.

1. Click **PhotoCollection**. A list of available photo sources is displayed on the left, with the selected source's contents displayed as thumbnail pictures on the right.

PhotoCollection window



2. From the thumbnail view, click to select pictures. Hold down the **Ctrl** key while clicking, to select several pictures. Use **Ctrl+A** to select all of the photos in a folder.

3. Manage your pictures with these additional tools and features:

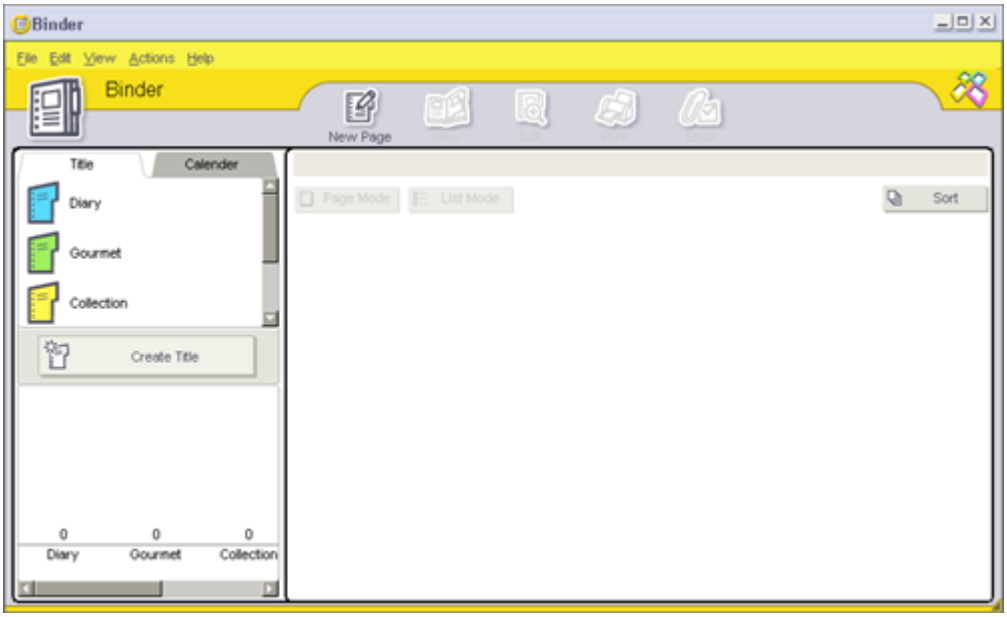
   - **Rotate** to change the picture's position.
   - **View** to enlarge a thumbnail view.
   - **Slideshow** to place the selected pictures into an organized slideshow, customizing the slideshow settings with the icon toolbar at the top of the slideshow window.
   - **Print** to set up your photos and select paper to make prints.

Using the Binder feature

You can add comments to your favorite photos, add custom backgrounds, clip art, and stamps, or showcase your own drawing talent. Add, remove, or change your designs to create your own unique photo art.

1. Click **Binder**. A list of binder styles is displayed on the left. When you add your pictures to a binder, they are displayed as thumbnails on the right.

Binder window



You can create your own custom binder styles by clicking **Create Title**.

2. Select a binder style, then click **New Page**. Available photo sources are displayed as thumbnails.
3. Click to select a photo. An information form appears.
4. Fill in your information and click **OK**. An art palette window appears.

   To create an original page with art or stamps, use the decoration features on the right by clicking on the desired feature and applying it to your photo.

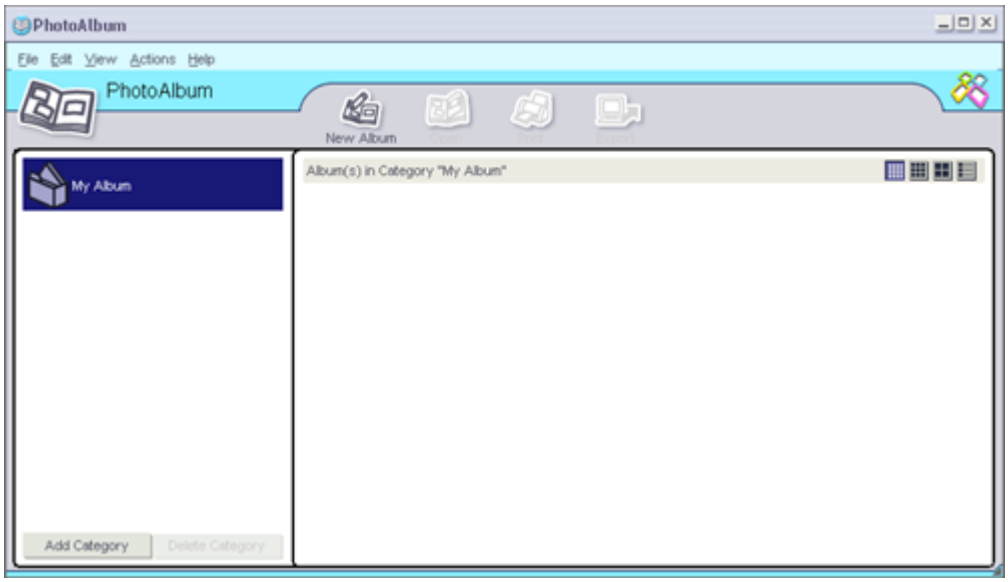
5. Click **Save** to add the new page to your binder.

Using the PhotoAlbum feature

Organize your memorable photos in an electronic photo album. You can share your custom photo albums with friends and family.

1. Click **PhotoAlbum**.

PhotoAlbum window

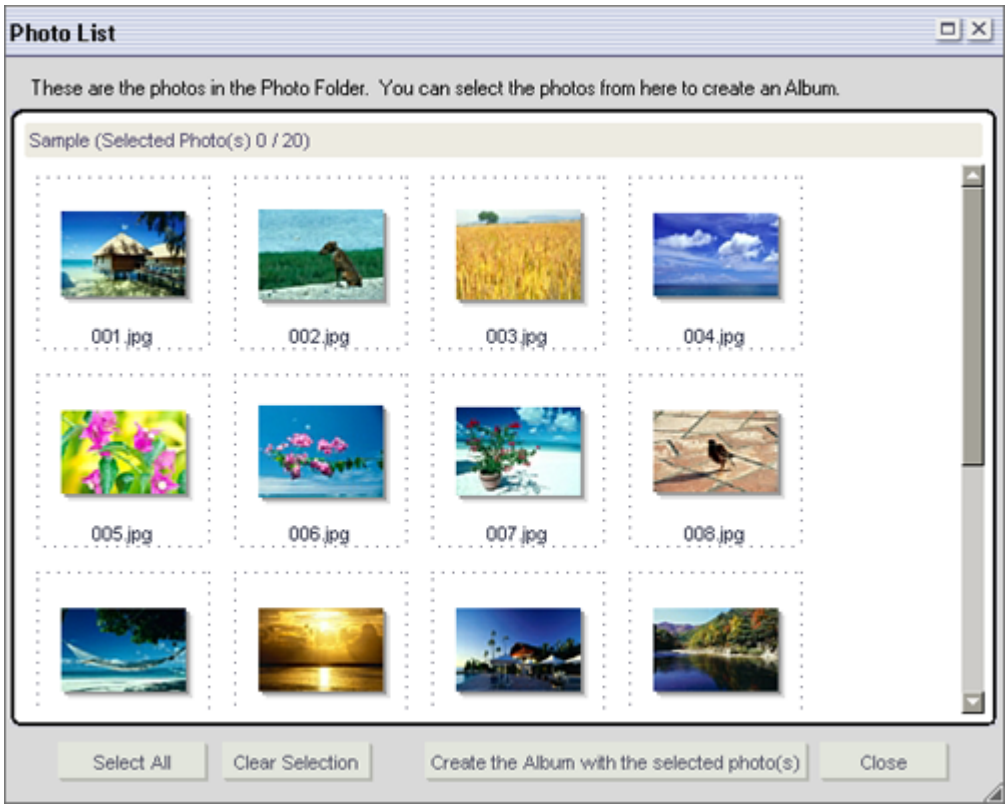


2. Click **New Album**. The Select Photo area appears.

If you want to work on a previously created album, do not click **Create New Album**. Instead, select the desired album from the Album Collection view on the right side of the window.

3. To select the photos you want to include in your album from available folders, click **List**. The **Photo List** window appears.

Photo List window

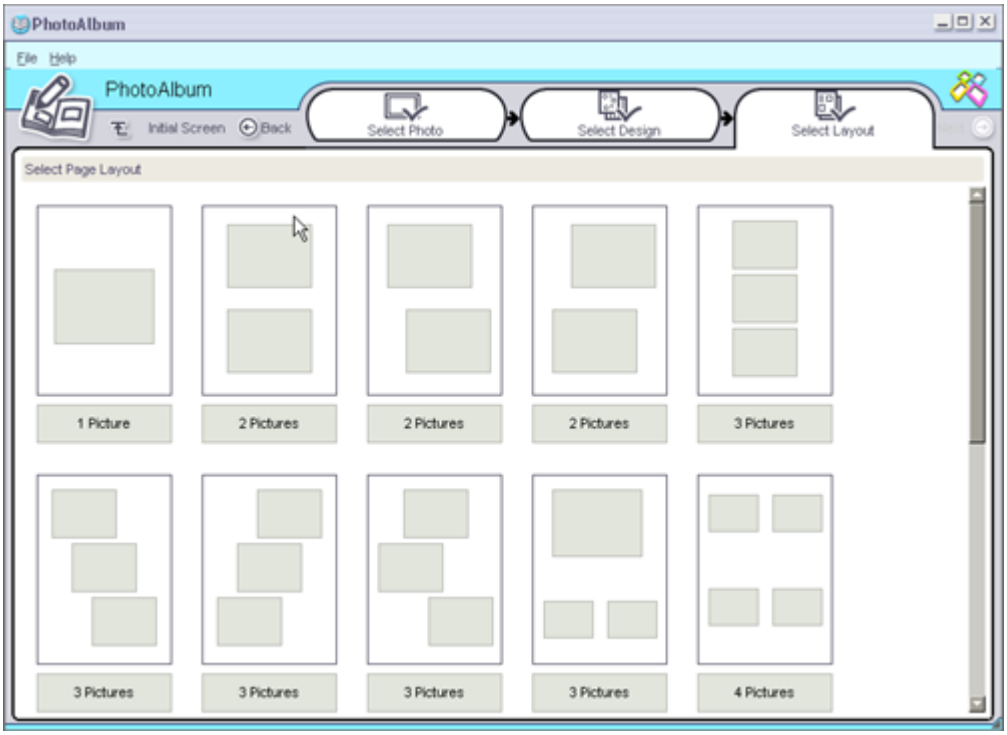


4. Click **Create the Album with the selected photo(s)** after making your picture selection(s). A **Select Design** window appears.

Select Design window

5. Click to select a design layout for your album. Use the scroll bar to view all available album designs. A **Select Layout** window appears.

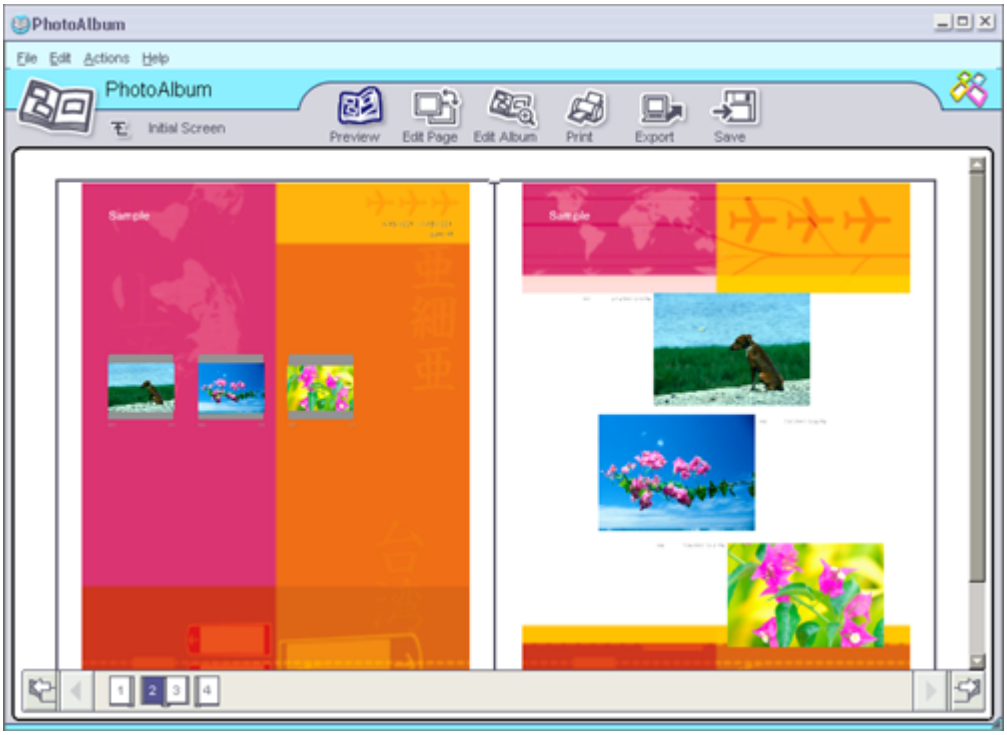
Select Layout window



6. Click to select a page layout for your album. Use the scroll bar to view all available layout designs. A preview of your selected design and page layout is displayed.

   Scroll through your album using the book icons at the bottom of the window.

Album preview window



7. Click **Edit Album** to make changes to your album. Customize your album by adding more pictures, pages, decorations, or comments, or by deleting pages.

   Click **Edit Page** to customize a page in your album. You can customize with your own drawing, stamps or other decorations.

8. Click **Save**. The Save Album dialog box appears.

9. Enter a name for your album and click **OK**.

Photo albums can only be viewed or edited using PictureGear Studio software. To share a PictureGear Studio creation over the Internet or by using another computer, use the Export feature.

To export a photo album

There are three export formats available:

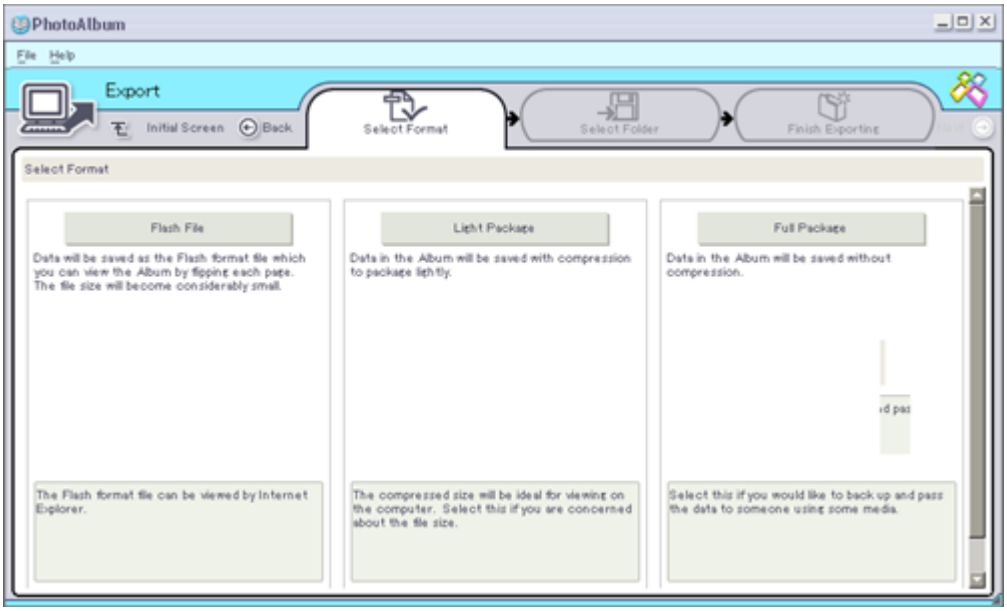
- Export as a **Flash File** to create a small file that can be viewed using Microsoft® Internet Explorer.
- Export as a **Light Package** to create a compressed file that can be viewed on a computer.
- Export as a **Full Package** to create an uncompressed file to be saved to recordable media, such as a CD-R/CD-RW or Memory Stick® media.

Export your completed photo album to enable viewing over the Internet, with another computer, or saving to a recordable media.

1. Create a photo album, as described in Using the PhotoAlbum feature.

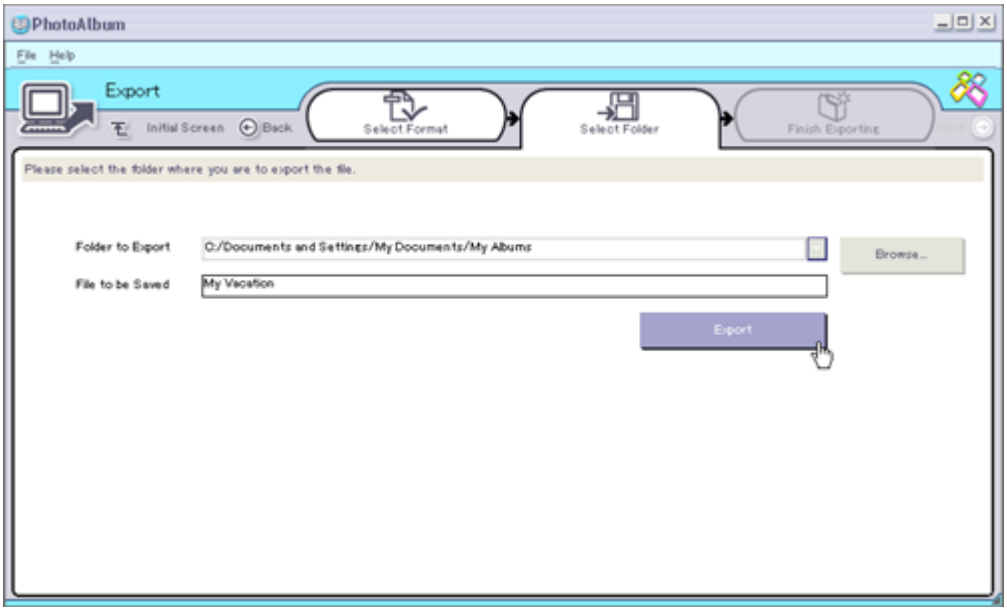
2. Click Export. A **Select Format** window appears.

Select Format window


PhotoAlbum
File Help
Export
Initial Screen
Back
Select Format
Select Folder
Finish Exporting
Select Format
Flash File
Data will be saved as the Flash format file which you can view the Album by flipping each page. The file size will become considerably small.
Light Package
Data in the Album will be saved with compression to package lightly.
Full Package
Data in the Album will be saved without compression.
The Flash format file can be viewed by Internet Explorer.
The compressed size will be ideal for viewing on the computer. Select this if you are concerned about the file size.
Select this if you would like to back up and pass the data to someone using some media.

3. Click to select an export format. A **Select Folder** window appears.

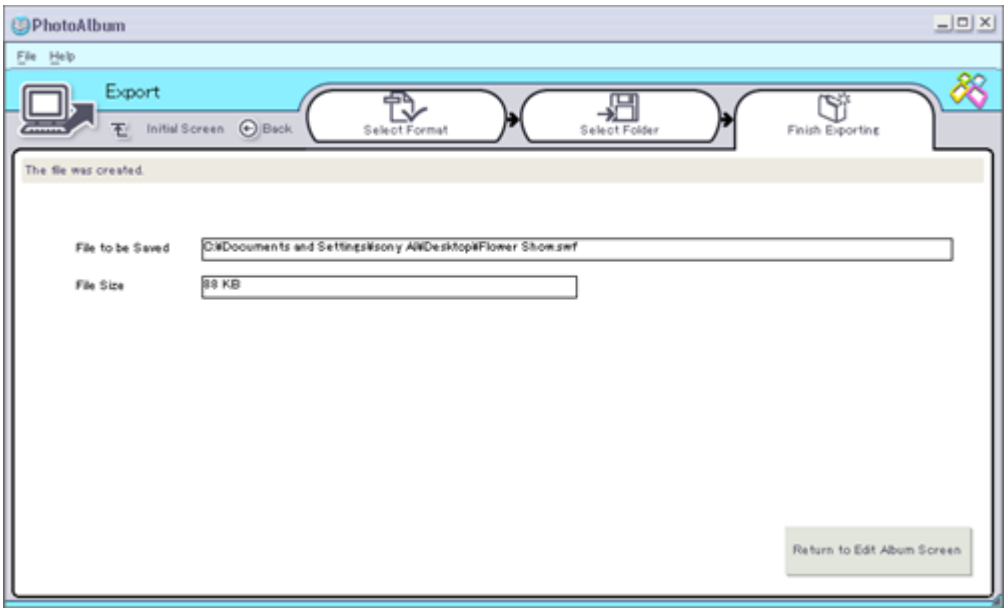
Select Folder window



4. Click **Browse** and navigate to the destination folder. Enter a file name, if desired.

5. Click **Export**. A progress window appears briefly.

Finish Exporting window



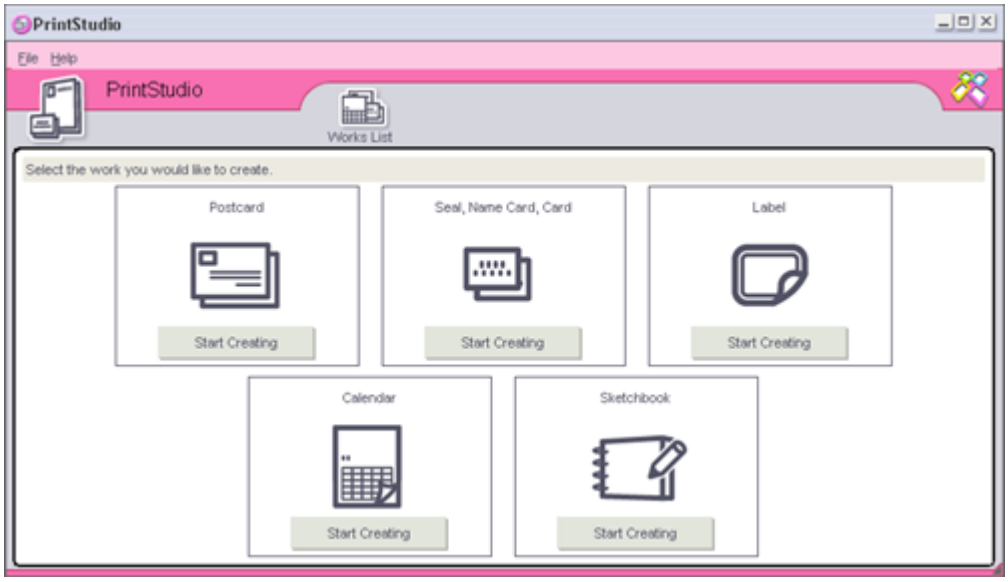
6. An export completion message window appears, displaying the file name and file size. Click **Return to Edit Album Screen**.

Using the PrintStudio feature

Use PrintStudio to design original postcards, calendars, art, and labels using your favorite pictures.

1. Click **PrintStudio**. The PrintStudio window appears.

PrintStudio window



2. Select the item you want to create and click **Start Creating**. The initial creation window appears.

   The initial window varies, depending on the item you are creating.

3. Make selections for the picture(s), design layout, and custom decoration for the item you wish to create.
4. Set the number of copies to be printed and select a connected printer. Click **Print**.

Use the appropriate paper when creating items, such as postcards, labels or business cards.

Working with Digital Music

You can play music on your computer, create custom audio CDs, and check music out to portable digital music devices, such as Net MD players and Network Walkman Digital Music Players.

Your computer is equipped with SonicStage software, which employs Sony's OpenMG copyright protection technology and advanced ATRAC3 audio file format. These features enable you to enjoy digital music while protecting the rights of copyright holders.

You can enjoy digital music with SonicStage software in a wide variety of ways:

- **Play and record music from audio CDs—**SonicStage software enables you to play your audio CDs and record audio tracks to your computer. Music tracks recorded to your computer can be combined into Playlists and checked out to portable music devices so you can take your music with you.
- **Create custom audio CDs—**On computer models equipped with a CD recording device, you can create custom audio CDs from your SonicStage Playlists, mixing tracks from different sources and artist.
- **Make backup copies of your audio CDs—**On computer models equipped with a CD recording device, SonicStage software's Backing Up Audio CDs utility makes it easy to create backup copies of your audio CDs.
- **Use Playlists to organize and manage your music—**SonicStage software's powerful, hierarchical Playlist feature enables you to organize the music you've imported into the SonicStage program. You can create lists of songs categorized by artist or genre and place a shortcut to the list onto your desktop with Microsoft® Windows® operating system for one-click playback of your favorite music.
- **Download music from Electronic Music Distribution (EMD) services on the Internet**[1]**—**Electronic Music Distribution services are Internet-based subscription services that allow you download music tracks from the World Wide Web. Using EMD services with SonicStage software enables you to download music tracks, include them in your Playlists, and check them out to your portable digital music devices.
- **Import audio files from your computer—**SonicStage software enables you to import MP3 and WAV audio files stored on your computer so they can be added to Playlists and recorded to CD.
- **Enjoy karaoke-type effects during music playback—**The Vocal Canceler effect can suppress the vocal track from most music during playback. This effect also enables you to shift the pitch of music to suit your vocal range. Used together, these features make it easy to sing along with your favorite music, turning your computer into a karaoke system.Vocal Canceler works only with stereo music clips.
- **Enjoy a Visualizer light show during music playback—**The Visualizer feature of SonicStage software performs a colorful light show on your computer's screen to match your music as it plays.

SonicStage software has a tutorial that can help you get started. The tutorial lists common tasks and directs you to the appropriate SonicStage feature that performs the task.

To view SonicStage software Help

1. From the Windows® taskbar, point to all programs, and then click **SonicStage**.
2. From the SonicStage main window, click **Help** from the menu bar, and then click **SonicStage Help**.

[1] Use of an EMD service requires Internet access and separate subscription to the EMD service. The SonicStage software supports only EMD services compatible with OpenMG technology. Refer to the online Help within the SonicStage software for details.

Using SonicStage software

SonicStage software is a new jukebox application that enables you to play and record from audio CDs and import digital audio files while maintaining copyright information.

1. Click **Start** on the Windows taskbar, and click **All Programs**.
2. Point to **SonicStage**, and click **SonicStage**.
3. When you have registered with CDDB, the **Confirm the setup of SonicStage**... dialog box appears.
4. Click **Yes** to continue.

The CDDB® (Compact Disc Database) Music Recognition Service registration wizard enables you to register with CDDB. You need Internet access from your computer to register and use this service. For more information regarding CDDB registration, click the **Help** button.

About SonicStage source icons (Main window)

- **Music Drive** — View the audio files stored in the music database or registered to a Playlist.
- **CD** — View the contents of the audio CD or CD-R. Enables you to record audio files to the hard disk drive.
- **MS** — View the audio files stored on the MagicGate Memory Stick media, if one is inserted in the Memory Stick slot.
- **Devices/Media** — View the status of your audio files, connected external device, or inserted media.

SonicStage Main Window

1 Recording Assistant button

Displays the Recording Assistant window, where you can record or transfer audio files. **8 Volume Control buttons**

Controls the volume for playing audio files.

2 Source icons

Changes the window according to the selected feature. **9 Equalizer button**

Displays the Equalizer dialog box where you can adjust the sound quality and register new settings.

3 Playback Area (Playlist view)

Contains different functions depending on the source icon you select. The Player control buttons, which enable you to play, pause, stop, fast forward, and reverse, are located in this area. **10 Sound Effect button**

Displays the menu where you can adjust the Vocal Canceller settings.

4 Import button

Displays the Import window, where you can import audio files from the hard disk drive to the Music Drive. **11 Visualizer button**

Displays or hides the Visualizer window where you can view images synchronized to the audio file's sound.

5 Content Area (Playlist view)

Displays the playlists that are contained within the Categorized List you selected. Double-click a playlist to view its tracks. **12 Internet button**

Displays or hides the Internet window where you can download or stream audio files via EMD services.

6 Categorized List (Tree view)

Displays the playlists stored in the Music Drive by artist name, genre, format, and so on, and enables you to locate your audio files. **13 Internet address drop-down list (Playlist view)**

Displays Internet addresses associated with the currently selected song. You can create a URL for either the album or individual tracks. Click **GO** to immediately connect to the Internet address displayed in the drop-down list.

7 Menu button

Displays the SonicStage main menu. **14 Switch to Edit Area button**

Switches the Content Area to the Edit Area.

Recording from a CD

You can record songs from audio CDs and add them to playlists in SonicStage software.

When you record from an audio CD from your optical drive for the first time, the **CD Drive Optimization** dialog box appears. Click **Start** to verify your optical drive. After the verification is performed, recording begins.

1. Insert an audio CD into your computer's optical drive. The Microsoft Windows® system recognizes the CD, and a window may appear asking you to select an action. Click **Cancel** to close this window.

   When SonicStage software is running and an audio CD is inserted, an Internet connection to CDDB is automatically launched to retrieve artist and track information. An error message is displayed if there is no Internet connection. Follow these steps to disable this function:

   1. Click **Menu**.
   2. Select **CD Settings**.
   3. Clear the **Start playing the CD automatically** check box.

2. Open SonicStage software using the Start menu. See Using SonicStage software for more information.
3. When the Main Window appears, click

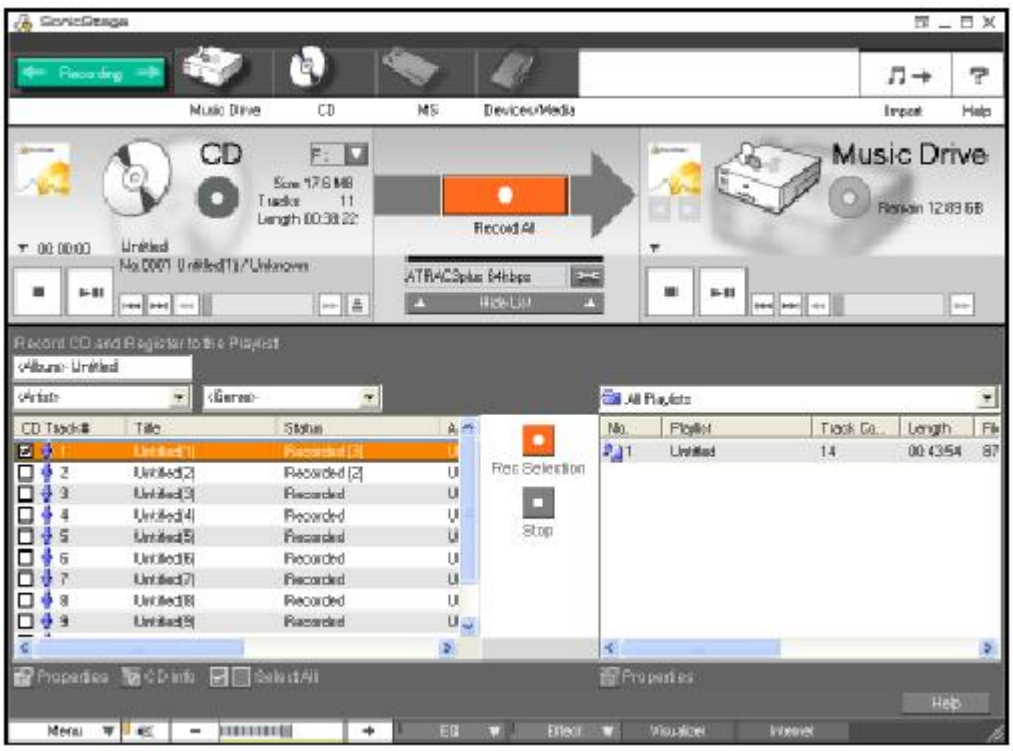
. The **Recording Assistant Window** appears.
4. Select the **CD icon** in the Source box, and then select the **Music Drive icon** in the Target box.
5. Click the **Jump to Record Window** button. The **Record Window** appears.

   You can also drag and drop the CD icon onto the Music Drive icon in the Main Window to open the Record Window.

6. Click

to view the List Area of the Record Window. To select specific files on your CD, click to check or clear the check marks of the tracks on the CD. A check mark indicates you have selected that track for recording.

Record Window



You can also select or clear the check marks of all the tracks on the CD by clicking one of the **Select All** buttons: or .

7. Click the **CD Info** icon in the lower left corner of the Record Window to launch CDDB and name your CD and its song titles.

   ✍ The CD Info button feature is not supported for all audio CDs.

8. Click (**Change CD Recording Format)** on the Record Window to select a different recording format and bit rate. See the online SonicStage Help guide for more information.

9. You have two options for recording the audio tracks on a CD:

   1. Click the **Record All** button to record all the tracks on a CD.

   2. Click the **Rec Selection** button to record the specific tracks you checked in the List Area.

10. When the Select Playlist window appears, select either **Create a New Playlist** or **Add to Playlist**, and click the **Start Rec** button. When the recording is finished, the playlist appears in the Playlist window.

Transferring songs (Check-In/Check-Out)

You can use SonicStage software to transfer audio files between the playlists stored in the Music Drive and the external devices or media. Transferring files from the Music Drive to the external device or media is called "check-out," and transferring files from the external device or media to the Music Drive is called "check-in."

✍ See the instructions supplied with the external device or media for more information on how to use it.

The following instructions explain how to check in and check out audio files from the Music Drive to a USB device, a MiniDisc, or a MagicGate Memory Stick® media. For instructions on automatically checking in and out audio files, see the online SonicStage Help guide.

To check-out songs

1. Connect the external device or insert the media into your computer.
2. Open SonicStage software using the Start menu. See Using SonicStage software for more information.
3. When the Main Window appears, click

. Your computer automatically recognizes the connected external device or media and the **Check-In/Out Window** appears.
4. Click

to view the List Area of the Check-In/Out Window.

Check-In/Out Window

5. Select the playlist that contains the track that you want to check out. The tracks in the playlist are shown in the Playlist view panel. Click the track to select it.

   ✍ You can also hold down the **Ctrl** key while you click the tracks to select more than one at a time.

6. Click (**Change Transfer Mode**). A Setup in transfer mode dialog box appears containing transfer information relevant to the installed device or media. See the online SonicStage Help guide for more information on how to select a transfer mode for a particular device.
7. Click (**Check-Out**), or drag and drop the file onto the external device or media song list to begin the check-out process.

   ✍ To cancel check-out, click

, or click (**Stop**), which is located in the middle of the Check-In/Out Window.

To check-in songs

The songs that you transfer to external devices or media can only be checked in to the Music Drive (or hard drive) of the same computer from which the songs were originally checked out.

1. Connect the external device or insert the media into your computer. Your computer automatically recognizes the connected external device or media and the **Check-In/Out Window** appears.

2. Click

to view the List Area of the Check-In/Out Window.

3. Select a track from the song list of the external device or media. To check in more than one track at a time, hold down the **Ctrl** key and click the additional songs.

4. Click (**Check-In**), or drag and drop the track(s) onto the Playlist view panel to begin the check-in process. If you want to check in all of the tracks in the external device or media, click the **Check-In All** button.

To cancel check-in, click

, or click (**Stop**), which is located in the middle of the Check-In/Out Window.

See the SonicStage Help guide for more information about using SonicStage software.

Making a backup copy of an audio CD

On computer models equipped with a CD recording device, you can use the **Backing Up Audio CDs** utility to make a backup copy of an audio CD.

On computer models that have both a read-only optical drive and an optical writing drive, you can make a copy with one click.

On computer models with only one optical drive, you must swap the original CD for a blank CD-R disc when requested to do so in the middle of the copying process.

1. Quit **SonicStage**, if the application is open.
2. Click **Start**, click **All Programs**, point to **SonicStage**, and click **Backing up Audio CDs**.

   The **Backing Up Audio CDs** utility starts.
3. Insert the CD you want to make a backup of into your CD drive.

   Insert the CD into the optical drive you use to read CDs. Depending upon your computer model, this may be a CD-ROM drive, CD-RW drive, a DVD-ROM drive, a DVD-RW drive, or a Combo Drive.

   On computer models that have both a read-only optical drive (CD-ROM or DVD-ROM) and an optical writing drive (CD-RW or DVD-RW), put the CD into the read-only optical drive.
4. On computer models that have both a read-only optical drive (CD-ROM or DVD-ROM) and an optical writing drive (CD-RW or DVD-RW), insert a blank CD-R disc into the optical writing drive.
5. Make sure your CD drive is selected in the **Retrieve from:** drive list.
6. On computer models that have both a read-only optical drive (CD-ROM or DVD-ROM) and an optical writing drive (CD-RW or DVD-RW), make sure your optical writing drive is selected in the **Write to:** drive list.
7. Click **Start**.

   The audio data is read from your audio CD.

   On computer models that have both a read-only optical drive (CD-ROM or DVD-ROM) and an optical writing drive (CD-RW or DVD-RW), the data is immediately written to the blank CD-R disc. The **Copy Successful** message appears. **The backup copy is finished**.

   On computer models that have only a single optical drive (CD-RW, DVD-RW, or Combo Drive), the **Reading completed** message appears after the data is read from the original CD.
8. If a **Reading complete** message appears, remove the original source CD from the optical writing drive and insert a blank CD-R disc.
9. Click **OK**.

   The audio data is written to the blank CD-R disc.

   The **Copy Successful** message appears.

   The backup copy is complete.

To view the SonicStage Help

1. Click **Start** on the Windows taskbar, and click **All Programs**.
2. Point to **SonicStage**, and click **SonicStage Help**.

Additional features

- **SonicStage Backup Tool—**You can back up and restore music, graphics, and information data managed by SonicStage software. You must be connected to the Internet to use the SonicStage Backup Tool.

- **Import audio files in various formats—**You can import audio files in various formats, such as the ATRAC3 , ATRAC3plus, MP3, or WAV standards. You can also import audio files that comply with the Microsoft® Windows Media Technologies (WMT) standard, identified by .asf or .wma extensions. Manage your audio files through the Playlist feature of SonicStage software.

- **Manage imported songs on the playlist—**Additional features are available when you register your imported songs through the Playlist feature of the SonicStage software. You can manage your music by creating your own list of songs categorized by genre or artist, displaying your song list in the Playlist feature, and arranging your songs in a customized order using the Playlist folders. Edit your music by combining multiple songs into a single song, or divide one song into two, by using the Combine and Divide features.

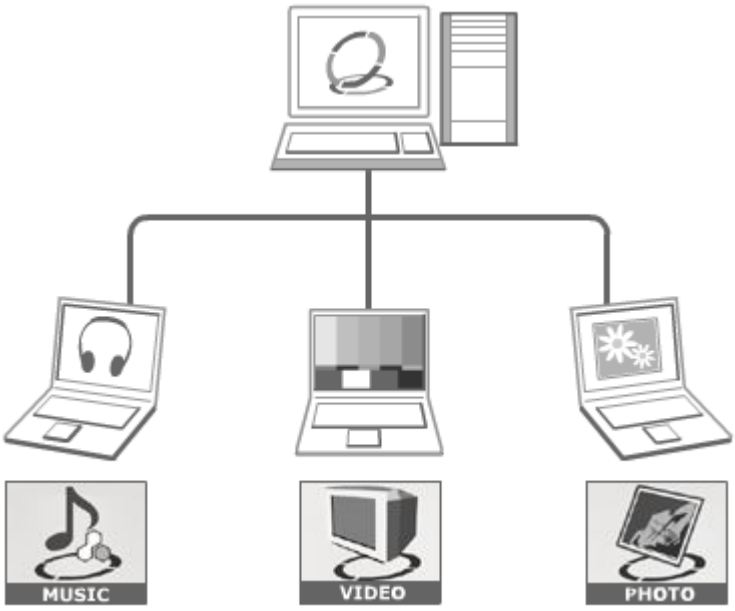
- **Simple mode—T**he main SonicStage window viewed in Simple mode, is a smaller, compact version of Full mode. This may be convenient when you want to listen to music with SonicStage software, while using other applications, or whenever you feel the Full mode view is intrusive. The design of the main SonicStage window in simple mode can be changed by selecting a new "skin," which enhances the window's appearance. The Simple mode feature enables you to perform playback operations only.

Sharing Video, Images, and Music on a Network

Your VAIO Media server computer can store three types of media:

- **Music files—**VAIO Media supports music files in MP3, WAV, OpenMG (ATRAC3), and WMA formats. On your VAIO Media server computer, use SonicStage 1.5 software to create playlists of music to share on your network.
- **Video files—**VAIO Media supports Video Capsule files created by Giga Pocket 5.0 software or later. Video Capsules in MPEG1 (LP), MPEG2 (SP), and MPEG2 (HQ) formats are supported. Only VAIO computers with Giga Pocket 5.0 software or later installed can be VAIO Media servers for video.
- **Image files—**VAIO Media supports image files in JPEG, GIF, BMP, and TIFF formats.

VAIO Media feature overview



This guide provides a brief overview of the VAIO Media software and features. For detailed instructions about setting up and using VAIO Media, see the VAIO Media Help.

Using VAIO Media Software

To share music, video, and photos with the VAIO Media system, set up one computer on your network as the central library or "media server," and install the VAIO Media client software on other computers. Computers on the network with the VAIO Media client software can then view the multimedia content stored on the VAIO Media server computer.

Setting up a VAIO Media server computer

A VAIO® computer that shipped with VAIO Media software preinstalled, can be used as a VAIO Media server, within a network environment. To support video files, the VAIO computer must have Giga Pocket software, vers.5.0 or later, installed.

1. Prepare your multimedia content.

   - **Music files—**Use SonicStage 1.5 software to create playlists of music files on your VAIO Media server computer. The VAIO Media Music Server software automatically makes SonicStage software, ver.1.5 playlists available to VAIO Media users on your network.

   - **Image files—**To make your image files available to VAIO Media users on your network, place the image files (JPEG, GIF, BMP, or TIFF) format into the folder:

     C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Photo Server\VAIO Media

   - **Video files—**Use Giga Pocket software, ver.5.0 or later, to create cabinets containing Video Capsules on your VAIO Media server computer. The VAIO Media Video Server software automatically makes these cabinets available to VAIO Media users on your network.

2. Use the **VAIO Media Console** software on the VAIO Media server computer to start the appropriate VAIO Media servers (VAIO Media Music Server, VAIO Media Photo Server , or VAIO Media Video Server.)

   To make additional SonicStage playlists or Giga Pocket cabinets available to VAIO Media users on your network:

   - Create the playlists or cabinets.

   - Stop the VAIO Media Music Server software or the VAIO Media Video Server software that is accessing through the VAIO Media Console software

   - Restart the appropriate server software. The music playlist and video cabinet content shared to the network is only updated when the server software is started.

   To start the **VAIO Media Console** software:

   - Click **Start**, and click **All Programs**.

   - Point to **VAIO Media**, point to **Server Administration**, and click **Console**.

Your VAIO Media server computer is now ready to serve multimedia content to VAIO Media client computers on your network

The music playlist and video cabinet contents shared to the network is only updated when the server software is started.

Setting up a VAIO Media client computer

Any networked VAIO® computer that shipped with the Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system installed, can be used as a VAIO Media client computer. A VAIO Media client computer can view or listen to media content located on a VAIO Media server computer.

To set up a VAIO Media client computer

If the client computer did not ship with VAIO Media software preinstalled, transfer and install a copy from the server computer.

To transfer a copy of VAIO Media software to a client computer, follow these steps:

1. On the VAIO Media server computer, click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, point to **VAIO Media**, and then click **Install VAIO Media to other VAIO**.

   The **Using other PCs** wizard starts.

2. Click Get Installer.

3. A file download message box appears. Click Save.

4. Select a location to save the file**, VM20Inst.exe**.

5. After saving the application, navigate through the network and locate the client computer.

6. Save the file to the client computer.

   You can copy the file to storage media that can be read by the client computer, such as a CD-R disc or Memory Stick® media, for transfer and set up of the installer package to client computers.

✍ The VM20Inst.exe file is 16MB in size. Verify the capacity of the storage media before attempting to save the application.

When the VAIO Media software is installed on the client computer, register the client computer with the VAIO Media server computer.

To register a VAIO Media client computer

Begin the registration process when the installer package is set up on the client computer.

1. Add the file at the client computer and run the **VM20Inst.exe** file.

2. Restart the client machine when the file is loaded. VAIO Media software appears in the **Start** menu.

3. Click Start on the Windows taskbar, point to VAIO Media, point to Register to Servers, and then click Start.

4. At the server, perform the following steps:

   1. Click Start on the Windows taskbar, point to VAIO Media, point to Console, Click Register devices.

   2. Click to select the client to be added from the list of recognized devices.

5. To register a client to a server, perform the following steps:

   1. Go to Access Control Settings.

   2. Click to select Access this computer from other devices connected to the network.

6. Click Register. Both server and client machines should be active during this process.

   ✍ Stand by status is automatically canceled 5 minutes after clicking **Start**.

7. At the server, accept the new client.

   As the server and client recognize each other, the server generates a 4-digit number for the client. Type this

number on the client machine. Each client has a unique number that cannot be used by the other clients on the network. If the process is cancelled, no number is generated and the registration process must be restarted for that client.

✍ Only one client computer can be registered at a time. If more than one client computer is actively seeking registration, only one client is registered. The registration process must be restarted for the next client computer.

8. Restart the client machine. A new icon, **VAIO Home Network**, appears.

The installation is complete and users can access media files stored on the VAIO Media server.

Using the VAIO Media software

When VAIO Media software has been installed on the server and client computers, start VAIO Media on the server and client.

To start VAIO Media software on a server computer

1. Click **Start on the Windows taskbar**, point to **All Programs**, point to **VAIO Media Server,** and then click **Console** to start VAIO Media.

2. Specify the service to start and click **Start**.

   Or click **Start All** to start all VAIO Media services.

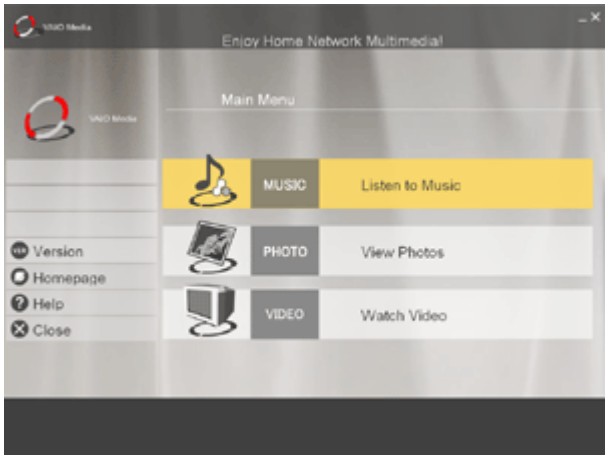
To start VAIO Media software on a client computer

1. Click Start on the Windows taskbar, point to **All Programs**, and point to **VAIO Media**.

   Or click the **VAIO Home Network icon on the desktop**.

   The VAIO Media main window is displayed.

VAIO Media main window



2. Click the content you want to access (MUSIC, PHOTO, or VIDEO).

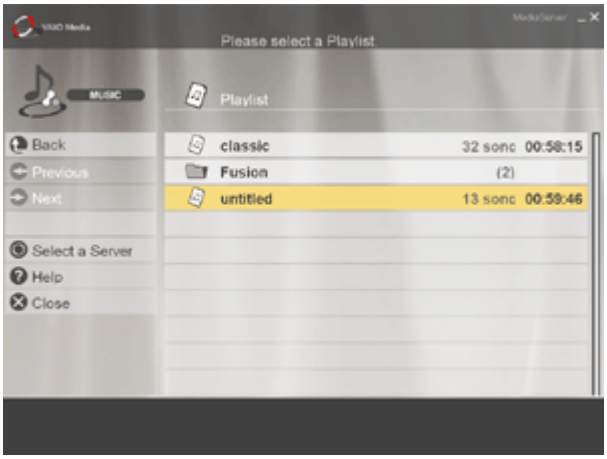
   VAIO Media searches for an available VAIO Media server computer on your network.

   - If more than one VAIO Media server is found, the **Please select a server** window appears. Select the desired VAIO Media server computer from the list.

   - If only one VAIO Media server is found on your network, a **Playlists** (music), **Folders** (images), or **Video Cabinets** (video) window appears, depending upon the type of content you selected.

     These windows display a listing of available playlists, image folders, or video cabinets.

Playlists window



3. Click on the desired playlist, image folder, or video cabinet.

- **Playlists—**When you click a playlist in the **Playlist** window, a list of the music files on the playlist is displayed, and the first music file on the playlist begins playing.

- **Folders—**When you click a folder in the **Folders** window, thumbnail images of the image files in that folder are displayed. Click an image thumbnail to view the image file.

- **Video Cabinets—**When you click a folder in the **Video Cabinets** window, a list of Video Capsules in the cabinet is displayed. Click a Video Capsule on the list to view it.

Additional information

Server system requirements

- The VAIO Media server requires VAIO computers running Microsoft® Windows XP Home Edition or Windows XP Professional Edition operating systems. Other computers and environments are not supported.
- The server and client computers must be connected through a wired network (ethernet cables) or a wireless local area network (LAN)
- Only a VAIO computer with Giga Pocket 5.0 software can act as a VAIO Media video server.

Client system requirements

- All client machines must be VAIO computers running Windows XP Home Edition or Windows XP Professional Edition operating system. Other computers and environments are not supported.
- All client computers must be on the same network with the server using a hub, ethernet cables, or a wireless LAN.
- All client computers must have VAIO Media 2.0 software installed before registration.

Network requirements

The VAIO Media network must meet one of the following network requirements:

- Ethernet that is built into the VAIO computer (100Base-TX/10 Base-T), or wireless LAN interface (IEEE802.11a or IEEE802.11b)
- Sony wireless LAN interface (IEEE802.11a or IEEE802.11b)

Each client computer must be configured to use a hub or an access point on the network.

Compatible file formats

The VAIO Media Software is compatible with files in these formats:

- Music files in:
  - OpenMG format - extension .omg
  - WAV format - extension .wav. (Only 16-bit linear WAV files are compatible with VAIO Media software.)
  - MP3 format - extension .mp3
  - Image files in:
    - Bitmap format
    - JPEG format
    - GIF format
    - TIFF format
    - PNG format
  - Video Capsules that have been previously recorded using Giga Pocket software. Other types of movie files cannot be viewed using VAIO Media Software.

Configuring Your VAIO Computer

This section provides basic information about managing your computer's hard disk drive performance, using i.LINK devices and changing default settings. Your computer may not be equipped with all of the hardware features described in this section, depending on the system configuration purchased. To view the specific hardware configuration for your computer, see the online specifications sheet.

- About Your Hard Disk Drive
- About i.LINK Compatibility

About Your Hard Disk Drive

To improve the performance of Sony audio and video software applications, the hard disk drive on your computer has been formatted with two partitions, drives C and D. Some Sony software applications save files to the drive D partition. This prevents large video captures from consuming the available space on your drive C partition.

To maintain optimum system performance, you should defragment your system regularly.

Defragmenting your hard disk drive

If you encounter frame dropping while recording digital video onto your hard disk drive, defragmentation may be necessary.

1. Deactivate your screen saver and close other open applications, if applicable.
2. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar and select **All Programs**.
3. Point to **Accessories**, point to **System Tools**, and then select **Disk Defragmenter**.

   The Disk Defragment dialog box appears.
4. Select **Action** from the menu bar and click **Analyze**.

✍ It may take a long time to complete the defragmentation process, depending on the data capacity and current utilization of your computer's hard disk drive(s).

About i.LINK Compatibility

Your VAIO® computer may be equipped with a 4-pin and/or a 6-pin i.LINK port, depending on the system configuration purchased. A 4-pin i.LINK port cannot supply power to a connected i.LINK device. A 6-pin i.LINK port can supply power (10V to 12V) to a connected i.LINK device, if the device is equipped with a 6-pin connector.

To view the specific hardware configuration for your computer see the online specifications sheet.

The total power supplied by the 6-pin i.LINK port cannot exceed 6 watts.

The following i.LINK 400 Mbps cables are available and recommended for use with your computer: VMC-IL4415, VMC-IL4435, VMC-IL4615, and VMC-IL6615.

Sony computer supplies, accessories, and peripherals can be purchased from Sony VAIO Direct through the Web site at http://vaio.sonystyle.com or the toll-free number, 1-888-315-7669.

i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE 1394 connection. The i.LINK connection may vary, depending on the software applications, operating system and compatible i.LINK devices. All products with an i.LINK connection may not communicate with each other.

Please refer to the documentation that came with your compatible i.LINK device for information on operating conditions and proper connection. Before connecting compatible i.LINK devices to your system, such as an optical or hard disk drive, confirm their operating system compatibility and required operating conditions.

Connecting an i.LINK (IEEE 1394) device

1. Use the symbol to locate the i.LINK port on your compatible i.LINK device and on your computer. Plug the i.LINK cable connector into this port.
2. Plug the other end of the cable into the corresponding 4- or 6-pin i.LINK port on your computer.

See the instructions that came with your i.LINK device for more information on installation and use.

Upgrade and Maintain your VAIO Computer

In the future you may want to increase the functionality of your VAIO computer. This section describes how to perform basic upgrades and maintenance on your system. For more information on upgrading your computer, see your model's *System Reference Manual*. You can download the *System Reference Manual* from the Sony Computing Support Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.

- Overview
- About Opening your System
- About Add-on Card Installation
- About Installing Memory
- About the Lithium Battery
- About Hard Disk Drive Installation

Overview

The upgrading procedures described in this section assume that you are familiar with the general terminology associated with personal computers and with the safety practices and regulatory compliance required for using and modifying electronic equipment.

Your computer may not be equipped with all of the hardware features mentioned in this section. The interior configuration of your system may vary from the illustrations, depending the computer purchased. To view the specific hardware configuration for your system, see the online specifications sheet.

Before upgrading your computer

Disconnect the computer from its power source and from telecommunications links, networks, or modems before you open the unit or follow any procedures described in this section.

⚠ **Failure to disconnect your computer from its power source may result in personal injury or equipment damage.**

Electrostatic discharge (ESD) can damage disk drives, add-on cards, and other components. Work at an ESD workstation when following the procedures described in this section. If an ESD station is not available, use these precautions:

- Avoid working in a carpeted area
- Do not handle materials that may produce or hold static electricity, such as cellophane wrappers.
- Ground yourself by maintaining continuous contact with an unpainted metal portion of the chassis while performing the procedure.
- When removing a slot cover or other internal components, avoid rough handling that may damage the system board or add-on cards.

✍ You may need to temporarily remove add-on cards or other components that may be near the slot cover you plan to remove.

⚠ **Electrostatic discharge (ESD) can damage disk drives, add-on cards, and other components. Follow the procedures described here only at an ESD workstation. If such a station is not available, do not work in a carpeted area and do not handle materials that produce or hold static electricity (for example, cellophane wrappers). Ground yourself by maintaining continuous contact with an unpainted metal portion of the chassis while performing the procedure.**

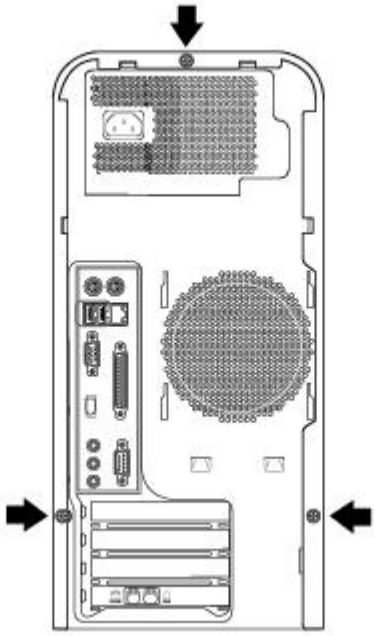
Always turn the power off before you open the system or connect your computer to peripheral equipment. Otherwise, damage may occur to the integrated circuits in your computer.

About Opening your System

Removing the cover

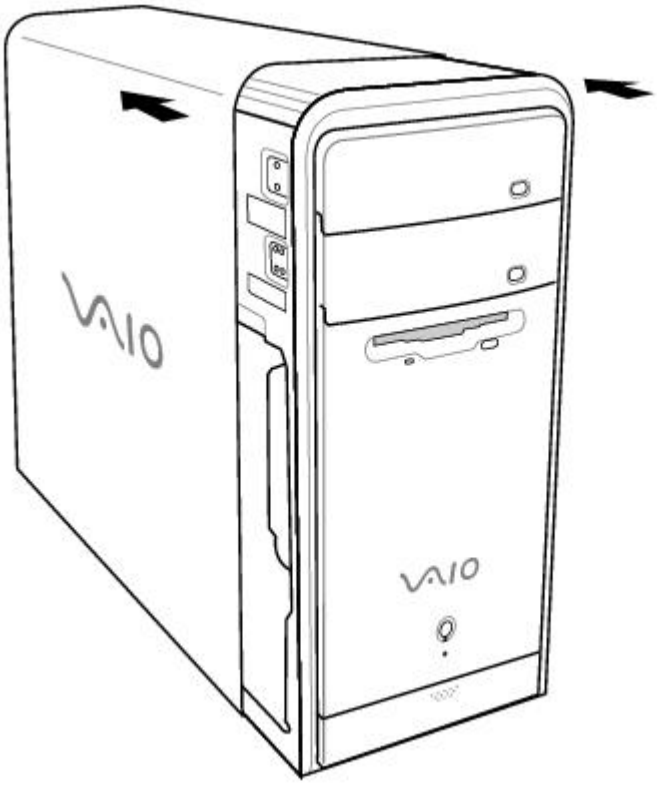
1. Shut down your computer and turn off all peripheral devices, such as your printer.
2. Unplug your computer and disconnect any peripheral devices.
3. Position the system unit so that the back panel is facing towards you.
4. Unscrew the three cover release screws located on the edges of the back panel and set aside.

Removing the release screws



5. When the screws are removed, the cover is released. Slide the cover towards the back of the unit to remove it.

Removing the cover

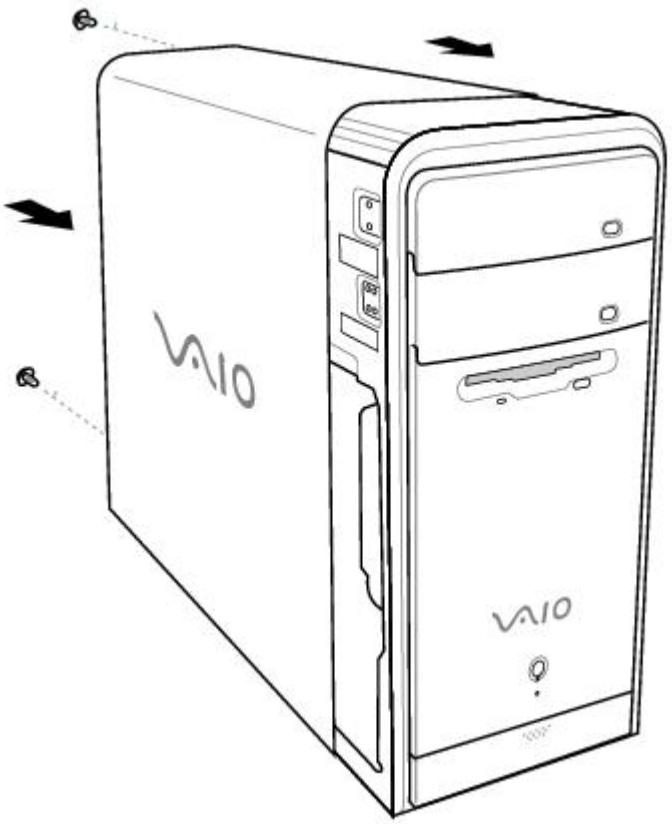


⚠ **If you remove the cover immediately after you shut down your computer, the components may be too hot to touch. Wait until the internal parts of the system unit cool down before you attempt to remove the cover.**

Replacing the cover

1. Carefully align the cover to the chassis frame. The cover should align evenly against the chassis.
2. Slide the cover firmly onto the unit, sliding it forward until the cover snaps into place.
3. Replace the release screws.

Replacing the cover



About Add-on Card Installation

Your computer may have one or more open expansion slots, depending on the model configuration. An expansion slot enables you to install add-on cards to expand the functionality of your system. The length of the add-on card should not exceed 9.05 inches.

Add-on card configuration varies by model. Some models, such as Configure-to-Order (CTO) systems, may contain preinstalled add-on cards.

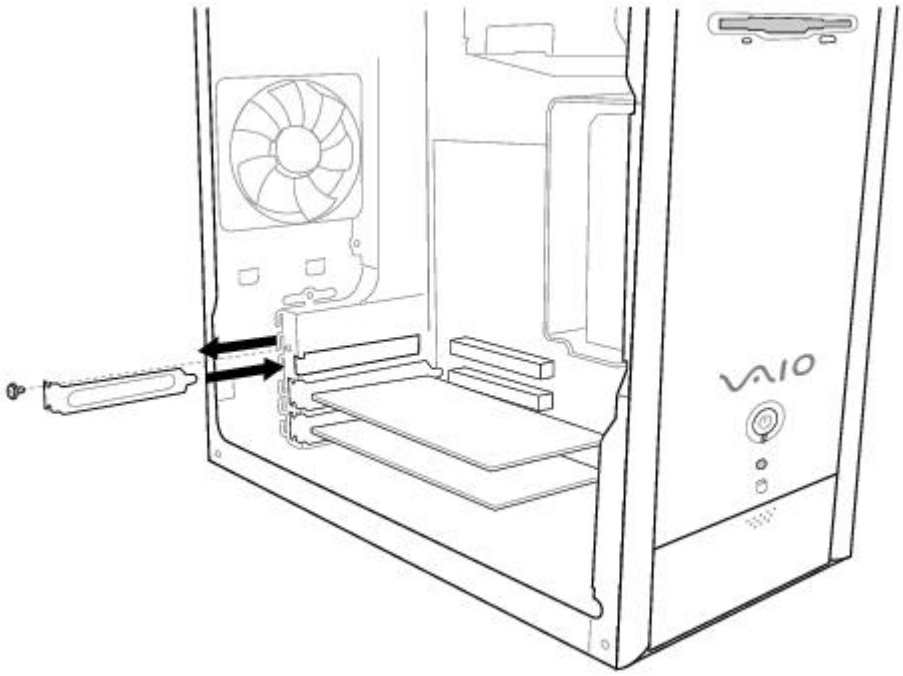
Observe the proper safety precautions when you add cards to your Sony computer. See Before upgrading your computer.

Installing an add-on card

1. Shut down your computer and turn off all peripheral devices, such as your printer.
2. Unplug your computer and any peripheral devices.
3. Remove the cover. See Removing the cover.
4. Locate an available expansion slot. Remove the slot cover's screw, and then remove the slot cover.

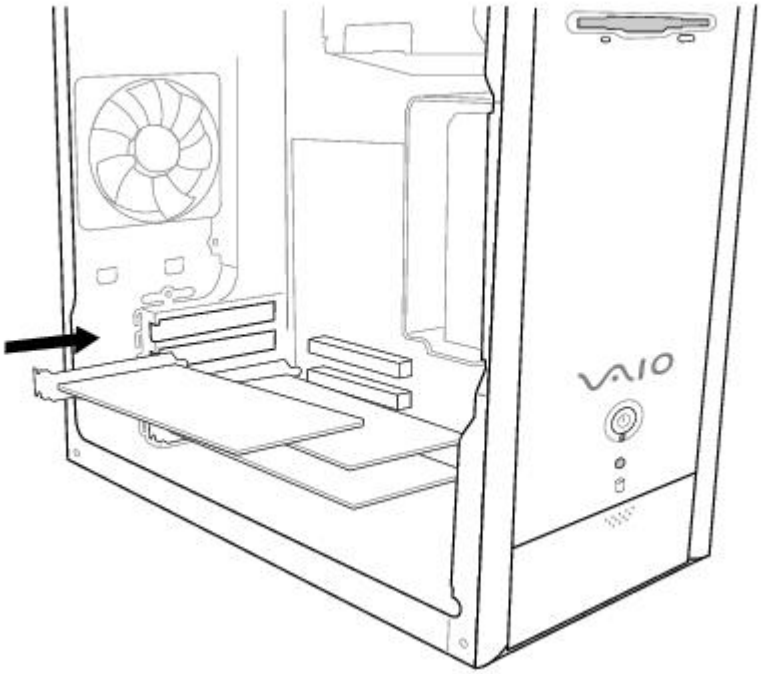
When removing a slot cover, be careful not to damage components on the system board or add-on cards. You may need to temporarily remove add-on cards or other components that may be next to the slot cover you want to remove.

Removing/installing the slot cover



5. Install the add-on card by inserting it into the expansion slot and securing it with the screw from the expansion slot cover.

Installing an add-on card



6. Attach any internal cables that the card requires. See the instructions supplied with the add-on card.
7. Replace the cover. See Replacing the cover.
8. Reconnect the power cord and all peripheral devices.
9. Turn on the computer.

About Installing Memory

The amount of preinstalled memory may vary, depending on the system configuration you purchased. Your computer may ship with all available memory slots filled. See the online specifications sheet for details about the amount of memory installed in your computer. For memory replacement or upgrades, use only 2.5 V, 64-bit, PC2100 DDR-SDRAM Dual InLine Memory Modules (DIMM).

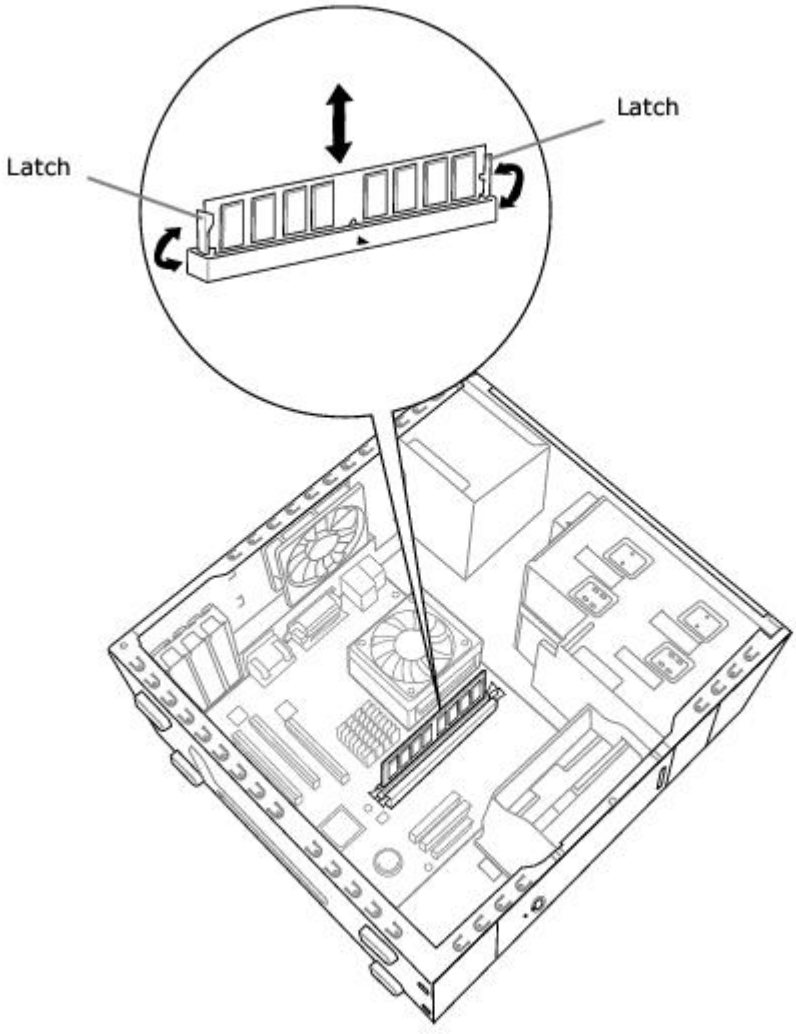
You can purchase additional memory modules, accessories, and peripheral equipment from your local retailer.

Observe the proper safety precautions when you add or remove the memory in your computer. See Before upgrading your computer.

Removing a memory module

1. Shut down your computer and turn off all peripheral devices, such as your printer.
2. Unplug your computer and any peripheral devices.
3. Remove the cover. See Removing the cover.
4. Gently place the unit on its side. If necessary, remove any cables, add-on cards, or other components to access the memory module slots.
5. Locate the memory module(s) you wish to remove.
6. Push down on the latches, located on both sides of the module, to gently eject it from the slot.
7. Grasp one edge of the module and lift it out. Store the module in a static-free bag.

Removing/Installing memory



Installing a memory module

1. Shut down your computer and turn off all peripheral devices, such as your printer.

2. Unplug your computer and any peripheral devices.
3. Remove the cover. See Removing the cover.
4. Gently place the unit on its side. If necessary, remove any cables, add-on cards, or other components to access the memory module slots.
5. Remove the memory module from its anti-static package, handling it by the the edges.
6. Locate the notch on the bottom edge of the module to align it over the open memory slot.
7. Firmly insert the bottom edge of the memory module into the slot.
8. Press down evenly against the module's upper corners. The latches snap into position, holding the module in place.

To avoid damaging a memory module slot, move the end latches slightly outward to relieve pressure. The module clicks into place.

9. Reinstall any components or add-on cards you may have removed.
10. Replace the cover. See Replacing the cover.

About the Lithium Battery

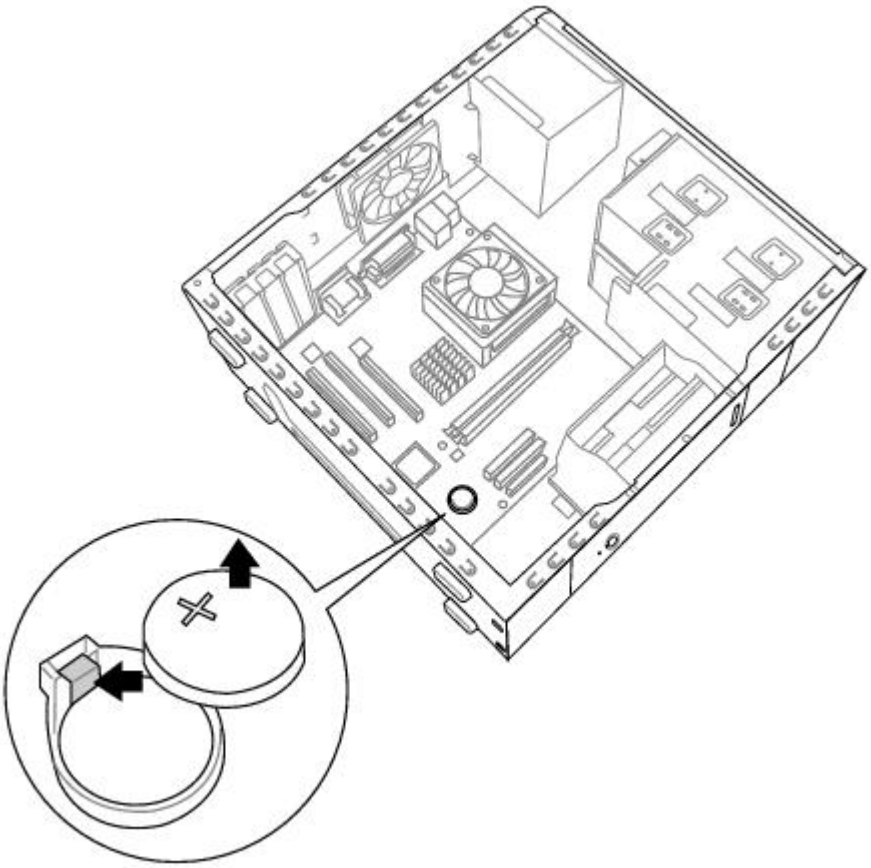
The lithium battery starts to weaken after several years and the system settings, such as the date and time stored in CMOS RAM, may become inaccurate. Replace the lithium battery when this occurs.

There is danger of the battery exploding if it is replaced incorrectly. Replace the battery only with a CR2032-type lithium battery.

Replacing the lithium battery

1. Write down any changes you may have made to the settings in the BIOS Setup utility.
2. Shut down your computer and turn off all peripheral devices, such as your printer.
3. Unplug your computer and any peripheral devices.
4. Remove the cover. See Removing the cover.
5. If necessary, remove any cables, add-on cards, or other components to access the lithium battery.
6. Remove the old battery and install the new battery with the plus (+) side up.

Installing a lithium battery



7. Replace the cover. See Replacing the cover.

The values stored in the CMOS memory are now reset to the factory default values. Run the Setup utility to reset the date, time, passwords, and other changes you may have made to the BIOS settings. If you do not wish to customize your BIOS settings, do not run the Setup utility.

Dispose of the lithium battery properly. In some areas, the disposal of lithium batteries in household or business trash may be prohibited. You can return your unwanted lithium batteries to your nearest Sony Service Center or Factory Service Center. To locate a Service Center near you, visit the Sony Computing Support Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.

Resetting the computer's date and time

1. Double-click on the time readout displayed in the Windows® tasktray. The Date and Time Properties window appears.

2. From the Date & Time tab, change the settings as desired. Click **Apply**, then click **OK**.

About Hard Disk Drive Installation

Your computer comes with an available internal bay to hold a second standard 3.5-inch hard disk drive. Some models, such as Configure-to-Order (CTO) systems, may already have a second hard disk drive installed. Your system can support ATA-33, ATA-66, or ATA-100 hard disk drives. Sony recommends using an ATA-100 hard disk drive to take full advantage of your system's features.

The hard disk drive access indicator is lit when either internal hard disk drive is active.

Make sure you observe the proper safety precautions when you upgrade your Sony computer. See Before upgrading your computer.

Replacing the original hard disk drive

If you replace the original, factory-installed hard disk drive, your system cannot restore the drive partitions, operating system, or original software, using the instructions provided in the section, Using the VAIO Recovery Wizard.

The VAIO Recovery Wizard is a quick and easy way to repair your system if it becomes unstable or stops working properly.

To enable you to recover your system with the VAIO Recovery utility, you can purchase a Partition Recovery CD Assembly (PRCD ASSY) to restore your system.

To order the Partition Recovery CD Assembly:

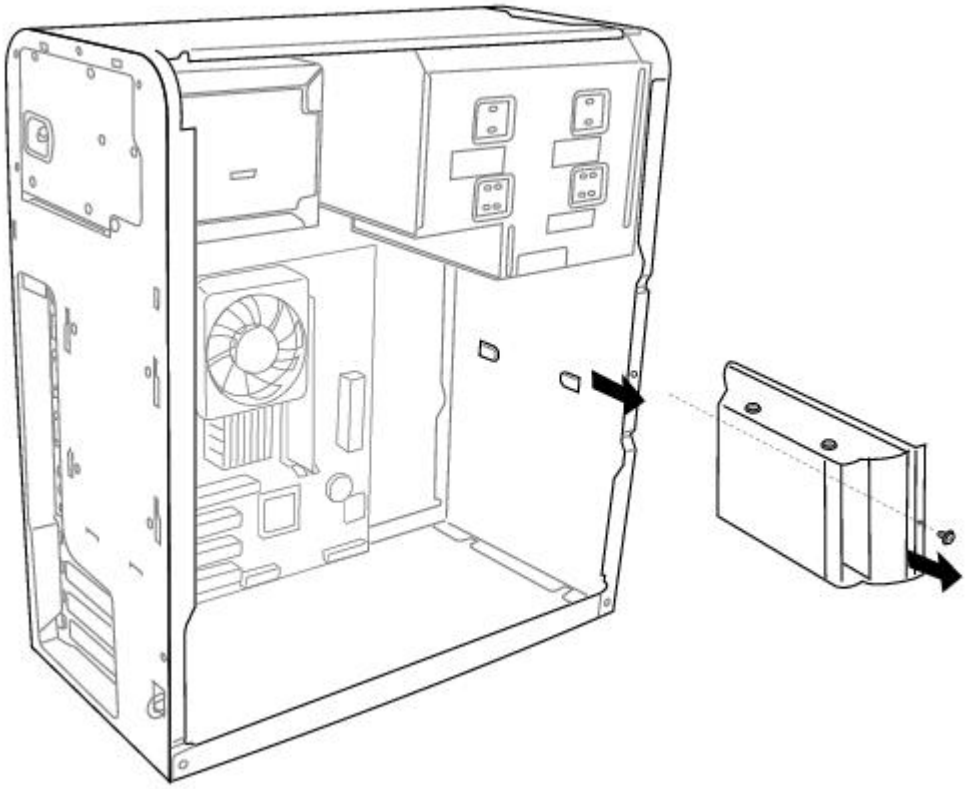
1. Go to the Sony Direct Accessories and Parts Center Web site at http://servicesales.sel.sony.com.
2. In the Search by type section, enter the part number, **A8113558A**. Click **Retrieve Part Info**. The Item Information window appears.
3. Verify the part number, item description, and availability. Click **Continue to Check Out** to purchase the Partition Recovery CD Assembly.

If you are not able to access the Sony Direct Accessories and Parts Center Web site, contact a customer service representative at 1-800-488-7669.

Installing an additional hard disk drive

1. Shut down your computer and turn off all peripheral devices, such as your printer.
2. Unplug your computer and any peripheral devices.
3. Remove the cover. See Removing the cover.
4. Configure the jumpers on the new drive as a slave. See the configuration instructions supplied with your drive.
5. Detach the power and drive cables from the original hard disk drive that is preinstalled in your computer.
6. Release the drive holder from the chassis by removing the drive holder screw.
7. Slide the drive holder out.

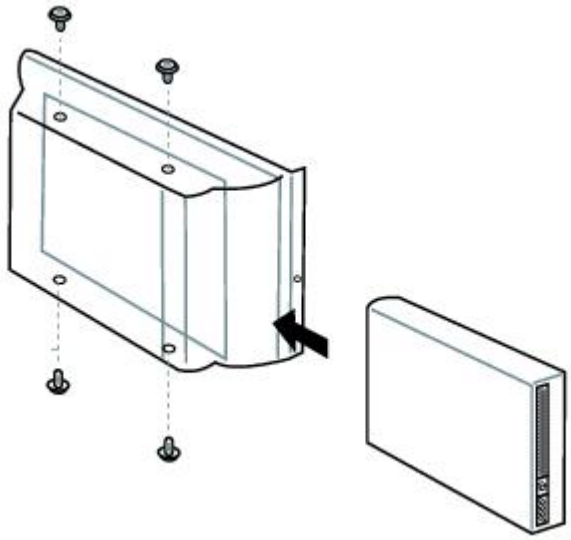
Removing the drive holder



8. Slide the new drive into the drive holder and align the holes on each side of the drive to the holes in the Drive holder.

9. Secure the drive to the drive holder with screws, through the holes on each side of the drive holder.

Attaching the drive screws



Your new hard disk drive is supplied with the necessary screws. Do not overtighten these screws when securing the new drive to the drive holder.

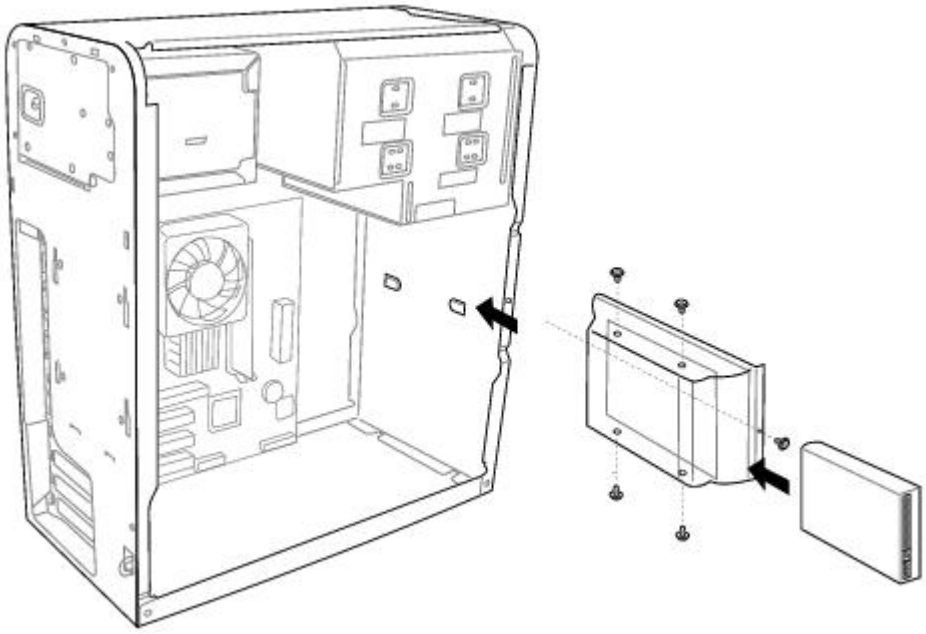
10. Realign the drive holder with the tracks on the inside of the chassis and slide the drive holder in completely.

11. Reinsert the drive holder screw and tighten to lock the drive holder back into position.

12. Connect the second drive connector to the new drive. Orient the connector to align pin 1 on the red side of the ribbon cable with pin 1 on the new drive.

13. Connect the second power connector to the new drive, following the instructions supplied with the drive.

Replacing the drive holder



14. Replace the cover. See Replacing the cover.
15. Reconnect the power cord to your computer.

Identifying the additional hard disk space

When you initialize the new hard disk, it must be configured as an extended partition in Windows NT file system (NTFS) format.

1. Log on to Windows® as Administrator.
2. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then right-click **My Computer**. A shortcut menu appears.
3. Select **Manage**. The Computer Management window appears.
4. Under the file directory, go to **Storage** and then select **Disk Management**.
5. Right-click on the newly installed, unformatted hard disk (Disk label identified with red marking). From the shortcut menu, select **Initialize Disk**.
6. Click on the Unallocated area of the disk and then right-click to display a shortcut menu.
7. Select **New Partition**. The New Partition wizard appears.
8. Follow the wizard's on-screen instructions to complete the process.

The Windows® XP operating system recognizes the new hard disk drive and applies the NTFS format.

Recovering your Software

Your system is equipped with a utility program that enables you to recover your computer's operating system and preinstalled software. The information[1] provided in this section, describes the recovery process.

- Creating a Recovery Startup CD
- Overview of System and Application Recovery
- Using the VAIO Recovery Wizard

[1] The screen views shown in this section may vary slightly from the actual software screen views.

Creating a Recovery Startup CD

A recovery startup CD can be used to start your computer in the event your system is unable to start normally. Sony recommends creating a recovery startup CD when you begin using your machine.

If you have previously created a recovery startup CD, the VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard icon is not visible in the Windows® tasktray. Go to Using the VAIO Recovery Wizard for information on accessing the VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard.

To create a recovery startup CD

1. Double click , located in the Windows® tasktray. The VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard appears.

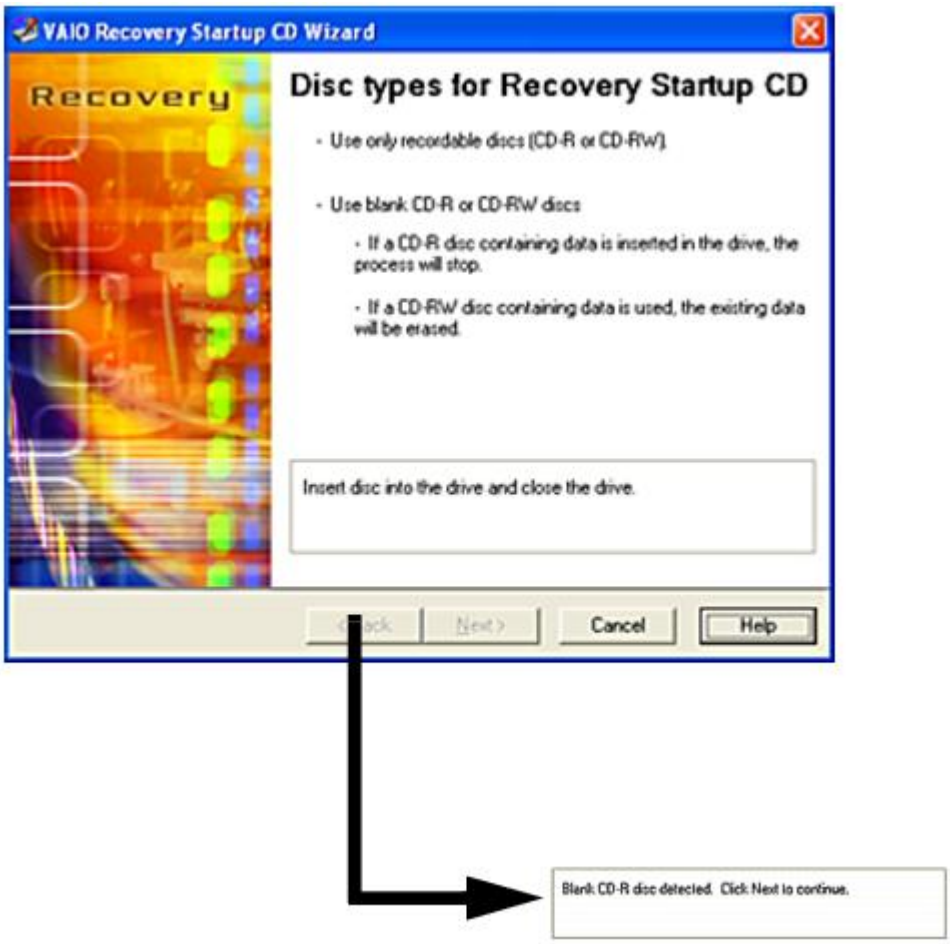
VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard (main window)

VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard
Recovery
VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard
Welcome to the VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard
It is strongly recommended that you create a Recovery Startup CD for use if your primary drive (C:) becomes corrupted.
Note:
After creating the VAIO Recovery Startup CD, you need to restart your computer. Please save all data and close all running programs then continue.
Click Next to continue ...
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

2. Click **Next**. Follow the onscreen instructions that advise you to
   - close all open software programs.
   - disconnect from the Internet.
   - disable the screensaver. (See To disable the screen saver)
   - avoid connecting or disconnecting peripheral equipment, such as a USB or i.LINK® device.
3. Click **Next**. You are prompted to insert a blank CD-R or CD-RW disc into the upper optical drive. Close the drive.

Sony recommends using a blank CD-R disc. If you use a CD-RW disc containing data, the data is deleted. The media may not eject automatically at the end of the recovery startup CD creation. If this occurs, use the drive eject button to remove the recovery startup CD.

Disc types for Recovery Startup CD

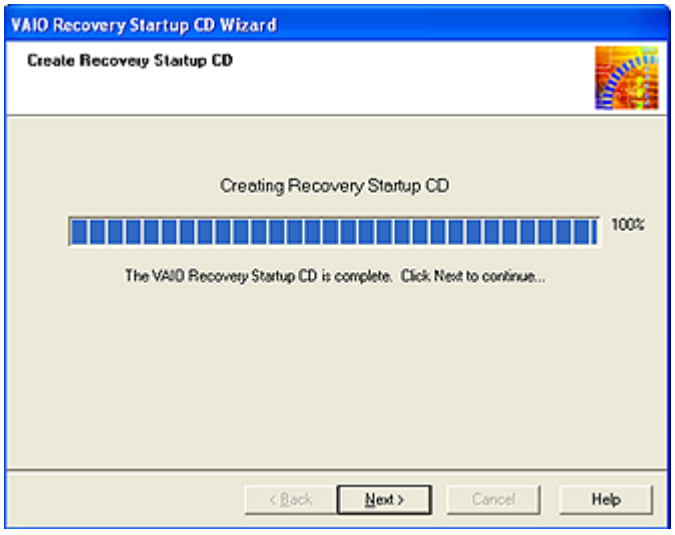

VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard
Recovery
Disc types for Recovery Startup CD
- Use only recordable discs (CD-R or CD-RW)
- Use blank CD-R or CD-RW discs
- If a CD-R disc containing data is inserted in the drive, the process will stop.
- If a CD-RW disc containing data is used, the existing data will be erased.
Insert disc into the drive and close the drive.
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help
Blank CD-R disc detected. Click Next to continue.

4. When the blank CD-R or CD-RW disc is detected and approved, click **Next**. The recovery startup CD process begins.

   A window with a progress bar appears.

   Do not attempt to open another software application or use your system in any way during the Recovery Startup CD creation process.

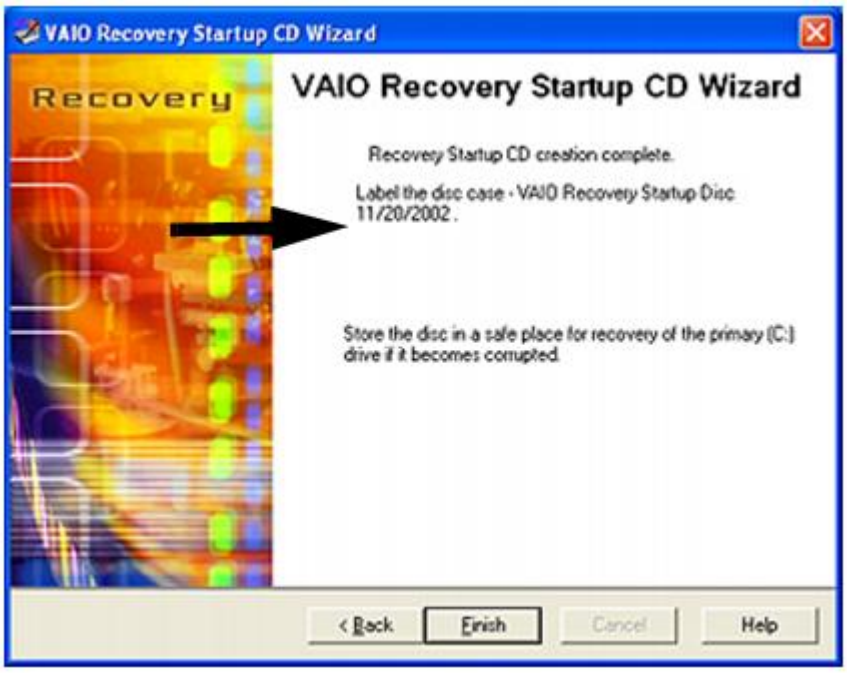
VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard (Status)



5. When the message, **The VAIO Recovery Startup CD is complete**, is displayed, click **Next**.

6. Follow the onscreen instructions to properly label your Recovery Startup CD and store it in a safe place. Click **Finish**.

VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard (Label CD)


VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard
Recovery
VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard
Recovery Startup CD creation complete.
Label the disc case - VAIO Recovery Startup Disc 11/20/2002.
Store the disc in a safe place for recovery of the primary (C:) drive if it becomes corrupted.
< Back
Finish
Cancel
Help

7. You are prompted to restart your system. Click **OK**.

VAIO Recovery Startup CD Wizard (Restart system)

To use the recovery startup CD

If your system becomes unstable and you cannot access the Windows® operating system, you can use the recovery startup CD to start the computer.

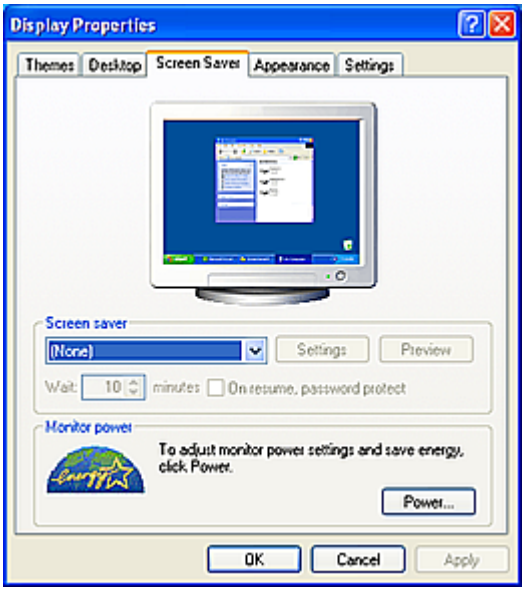
1. With your computer turned on, place the recovery startup CD in an optical drive.
2. Close the optical drive and turn off your computer.
3. Wait approximately 30 seconds, then turn the computer on. The VAIO System Recovery Utility begins.
4. After the system recovers, remove the recovery startup CD from the drive. Click **Finish**.

Some recovery options are not available if you use the recovery startup CD to start your computer.

To disable the screen saver

1. Right click on the Windows® desktop. From the shortcut menu, select **Properties**.
2. From the Display Properties window, select the **Screen Saver** tab.

Display Properties window



3. In the Screen saver area, open the drop-down list box and select **(None)**. Click **Apply**.

4. Click **OK**.

Overview of System and Application Recovery

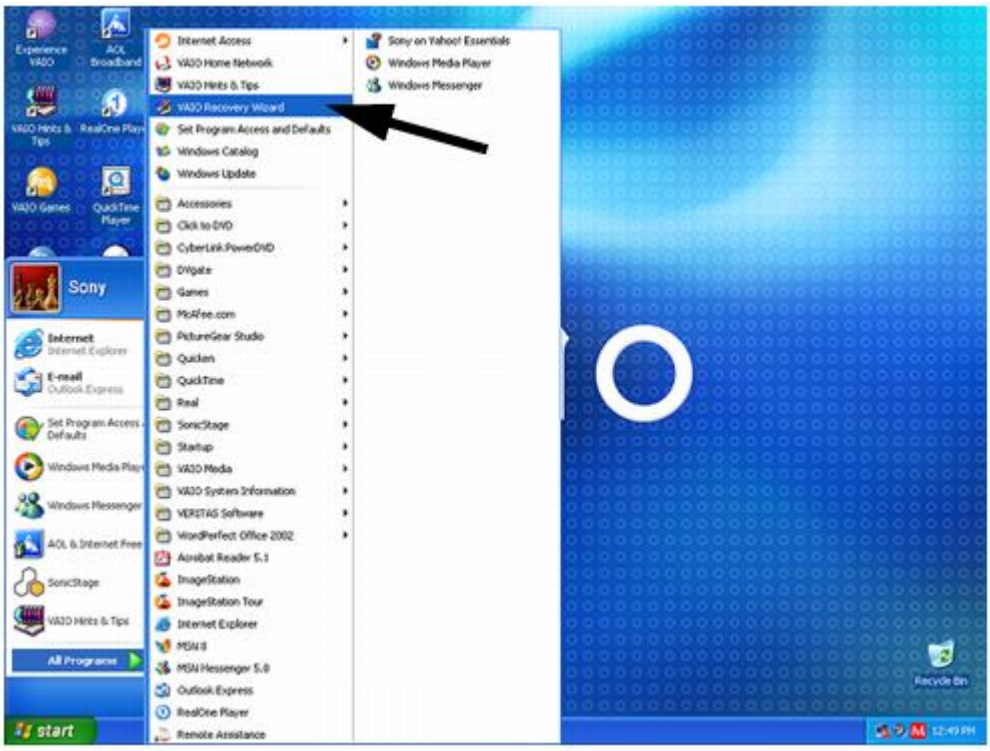
A system or application recovery may become necessary if your computer becomes unstable or the operating system and original software stops working properly.

Your system's data is not retained during the system recovery process. Perform a full backup of your system's data to external media before continuing with the system recovery process.

Using the VAIO Recovery Wizard

1. Click **Start** in the Windows® taskbar, point to **All Programs**, and click **VAIO Recovery Wizard**.

Locating the VAIO Recovery Wizard



The VAIO Recovery Wizard appears.

VAIO Recovery Wizard (main window)

VAIO Recovery Wizard
Recovery
VAIO Recovery Wizard
Use this utility to recover the original factory-installed operating system and software.
This utility does not back up your system's data. To create a backup, exit this utility and perform a full backup to external media.
Continuing this utility may require the system to restart.
Before continuing the recovery:
1. Close all open programs.
2. Disconnect all network connections.
3. Disconnect all peripheral devices.
4. Do not interrupt the power.
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

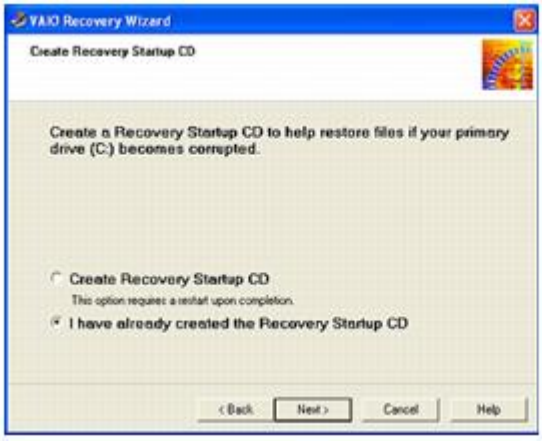
2. Follow the onscreen instructions that advise you to:

   - Close all open software programs.
   - Disconnect from the Internet.
   - Disable the screen saver. (See To disable the screen saver)
   - Avoid connecting or disconnecting peripheral equipment, such as a USB or i.LINK® device.
   - Maintain power to the system during the recovery process.

   ✍ Using the Recovery Wizard utility may require you to restart your system, even if you cancel and exit the wizard.

3. Click **Next**. You are prompted to create a Recovery Startup CD.

Create Recovery Startup CD window


VAIO Recovery Wizard
Create Recovery Startup CD
Create a Recovery Startup CD to help restore files if your primary drive (C:) becomes corrupted.
Create Recovery Startup CD
This option requires a restart upon completion.
I have already created the Recovery Startup CD
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

If you have not created your Recovery Startup CD, select the option, **Create Recovery Startup CD** and click **Next**. For more information, see Creating a Recovery Startup CD

4. If you have already created a Recovery Startup CD, select the option, "**I have already created the Recovery Startup CD**" and click **Next**. The Begin Recovery window appears.

Begin Recovery window

VAIO Recovery Wizard
Begin Recovery
Default System Drive Recovery (Recommended)
This option reinstalls the C: drive to the original factory-installed settings. All files and applications on the C: drive are deleted. Partition size(s) remain the same. This operation requires the computer to restart upon completion.
Custom Recovery (Recommended for advanced users)
This option changes partition size(s) and recovers the system.
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

5. Select the appropriate recovery option.

Default System Drive Recovery (Recommended)

Your computer's drive C is restored to the original factory-installed settings. All data on drive C is deleted. Data on other drive partitions or other hard disk drives are not changed.

The system recovery process cannot be interrupted once it has been started. Do not attempt to use your computer in any way during the recovery process.

1. Select the option, "**Default System Drive Recovery (Recommended)**" and click **Next**.
2. Read the onscreen information and click **Next**.
3. To begin the Default System Drive Recovery process, click **Finish**. Your system restarts and begins the system recovery.

   Using the Recovery Wizard utility may require you to restart your system, even if you cancel and exit the wizard.

   Several screens appear before the first VAIO System Recovery Utility window starts. The initial system recovery utility window displays a progress bar showing elapsed recovery time.

   The recovery process takes approximately 6 minutes.
4. After the progress bar shows all tasks as **Completed**, click **Next**.
5. Click **Finish** to restart your computer.

After recovering, your system may take a few moments to restart and resume normal operation.

Custom Recovery (Recommended for advanced users)

You can customize the recovery of your system. This advanced recovery process enables you to select partition size settings or recover specific software. The VAIO Recovery Wizard recovers the factory-installed operating system and software only.

1. Select the option, "**Custom Recovery (Recommended for advanced users)**" and click **Next**.

   The Begin Custom Recovery window appears.

Begin Custom Recovery window

VAIO Recovery Wizard
Begin Custom Recovery
Full System Recovery
This option recovers all original factory-installed settings and preinstalled software. All data and custom partitions on drives C and D are deleted.
Operating System and Drivers Recovery Only
This option recovers the Operating System, drivers and custom settings, along with your custom partition size. All other data is deleted.
Application Recovery
This option recovers individual factory-installed software. The partition sizes of drives C and D are not changed.
This option requires a restart upon completion.
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Help

2. Select one of three options:

   - **Full System Recovery**: Recovers all original factory-installed settings and software. Data on drives C and D are deleted.
   - **Operating System and Drivers Recovery Only**: Recovers the operating system and drivers. Data on drives C and D are deleted.

     Certain software, such as DVgate software, automatically saves data to the drive D partition. If you choose not to have a drive D partition, change the software settings to enable file saving to a location on drive C.

   - **Application Recovery**: Recovers factory-installed software without changing the drive C and drive D partition sizes. If you select this option, you cannot return to the system recovery portion of the VAIO Recovery Wizard without restarting your computer.

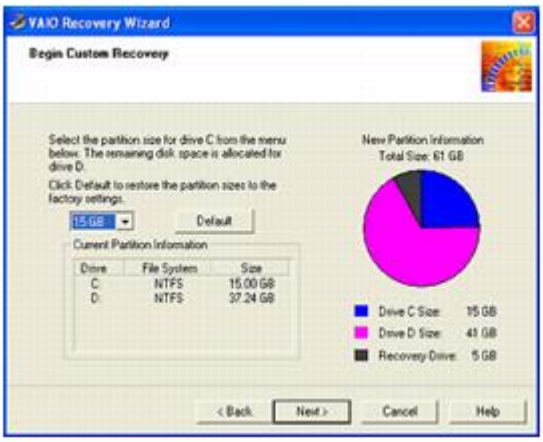
Full System Recovery

1. Select the option, **Full System Recovery** and click **Next**.

   In the section, **Current Partition Information**, the current partition size settings for your system are displayed.

   In the section, **New Partition Information**, the pie chart shows the division of the hard disk according to your partition size selections.

Begin Custom Recovery window (Custom partition options)



2. Select a size for the drive C partition, using the dropdown list. Click **Next**.

   Drive D partition size is the remaining hard disk space that is not allocated to Drive C. The Recovery Drive size

remains at 5 Gigabytes (GB).

The size of the partition identified as the Recovery Drive (5 GB) cannot be changed and is not available for use. This dedicated portion of your hard disk drive enables the recovery of your system.

3. Read the onscreen information and click **Next**.
4. Click **Finish** to start the system recovery process. Your system restarts and begins the system recovery.

The system recovery process cannot be interrupted once it has been started. Do not attempt to use your computer in any way during the recovery process.

Several screens appear before the first VAIO System Recovery Utility window starts. The initial system recovery utility window displays a progress bar showing elapsed recovery time.

The recovery process takes approximately 6 minutes.

5. After the progress bar shows all tasks as **Completed**, click **Next**.
6. Click **Finish** to restart your computer.

After recovering, your system may take a few moments to restart and resume normal operation.

Operating System and Drivers Recovery Only

1. Select the option, **Operating System and Drivers Recovery Only** and click **Next**.

   In the section, **Current Partition Information**, you can see the current partition size settings for your system.

   In the section, **New Partition Information**, the pie chart shows the division of the hard disk according to your partition size selections.

2. Select a size for the drive C partition, using the dropdown list. Click **Next**.

   Drive D partition size is the remaining hard disk space that is not allocated to Drive C. The Recovery Drive size remains at 5 Gigabytes (GB).

The size of the partition identified as the Recovery Drive (5 GB) cannot be changed and is not available for use. This dedicated portion of your hard disk drive enables the recovery of your system.

3. Read the onscreen information and click **Next**.
4. Click **Finish** to start the system recovery process. Your system restarts and begins the system recovery.

The system recovery process cannot be interrupted once it has been started. Do not attempt use your computer in any way during the recovery process.

Several screens appear before the first VAIO System Recovery Utility window starts. The initial system recovery utility window displays a progress bar showing elapsed recovery time.

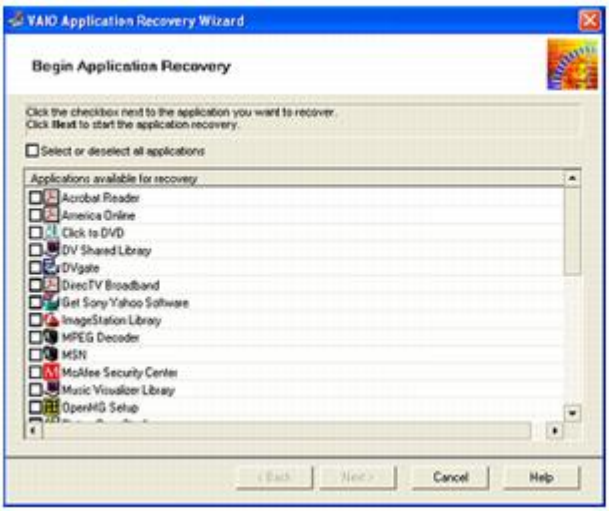
The recovery process takes approximately 6 minutes.

5. After the progress bar shows all tasks as **Completed**, click **Next**.
6. Click **Finish** to restart your computer.

After recovering, your system may take a few moments to restart and resume normal operation.

Application Recovery

1. Select the option, **Application Recovery** and click **Next**. The VAIO Application Recovery Wizard appears (Begin Application Recovery window).



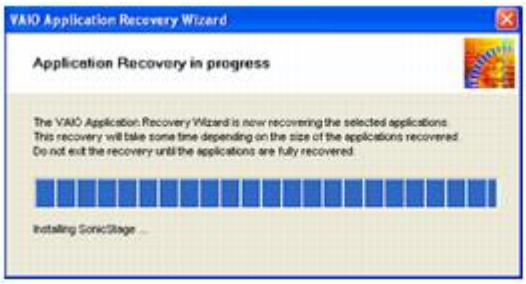
If you select the Application Recovery option, you cannot return to the system recovery portion of the VAIO Recovery Wizard without restarting your computer.

2. Click the checkbox for each software application you want to recover. You may need to use the scrollbar to view all available software. Click **Next**.

You can select the checkbox, **Select or deselect all applications**, if you wish to recover all available software. The Application Recovery utility recovers the original, factory-installed software only.

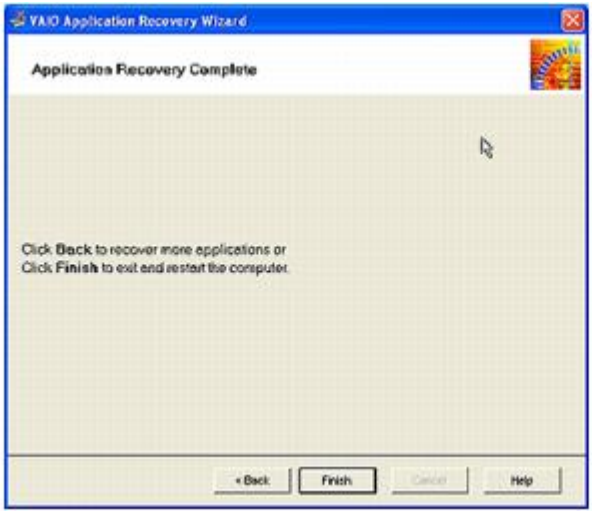
3. As your system prepares to install each application, a status indicator appears. You may see installation wizards, messages, and prompts. Follow the instructions provided in each wizard, and respond to each prompt or message.

Application Recovery in progress window


VAIO Application Recovery Wizard
Application Recovery in progress
The VAIO Application Recovery Wizard is now recovering the selected applications.
This recovery will take some time depending on the size of the applications recovered.
Do not exit the recovery until the applications are fully recovered.
Installing SonicStage ...

4. When the selected software applications have been recovered, the Application Recovery Complete window appears.

Application Recovery Complete window



5. Click **Back**, if you wish to recover more applications. The VAIO Application Recovery Wizard main window is displayed again, with a listing of the available software applications.

6. Click **Finish**. The Application Recovery process is completed and your system restarts.

If your recovered software does not function properly, or you see an installation error message, try recovering the software again.

Additional Information

- Certain software, such as DVgate software, automatically saves data to the drive D partition. If you choose not to have a drive D partition, change the software settings to enable file saving to a location on drive C.
- The VAIO Recovery Wizard is a quick and easy way to repair your computer's operating system or original software, if they become unstable or stop working properly.

  If your hard drive loses its partitions and you are not able to restore your system using the instructions provided here, you can order a Partition Recovery CD Assembly (PRCD ASSY) to restore your system.

  To order the Partition Recovery CD Assembly:

  1. Go to the Sony Direct Accessories and Parts Center Web site at http://servicesales.sel.sony.com.
  2. In the Search by type section, enter the part number, **A8113809A**. Click **Retrieve Part Info**. The Item Information window appears.
  3. Verify the part number, item description, and availability. Click **Continue to Check Out**, to purchase the PRCD Assembly.

If you are not able to access the Sony Direct Accessories and Parts Center Web site, contact a customer service representative at 1-800-488-7669.

Troubleshooting

This section describes how to troubleshoot common problems. You can also find helpful information on how to use your computer's hardware features and preinstalled software. Your computer may not be equipped with all of the features or software discussed in this section, depending on the system configuration purchased.

- About VAIO Computer Functions
- About Software
- About Using the Optical Disc Drive(s)
- About the Mouse and Keyboard
- About the Modem
- About the Speakers
- About Using a Microphone
- About Using Peripheral Equipment

My computer does not start.

- Verify that the computer is plugged into a power source and that it is turned on. Check that the power indicator is lit on the front panel of the computer.
- Confirm that a disk is not in the floppy disk drive[1] (unless you are using a bootable floppy disk).
- Confirm that a CD is not in an optical drive (unless you are using a bootable CD).
- Confirm that the power cord and all cables are connected firmly.
- If you plugged the computer into a power strip or Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), make sure the power strip or UPS is turned on and working.
- Verify that the monitor is plugged into a power source and turned on.

  If your system has a built-in monitor, confirm that it is plugged into an appropriate power source and that the system is turned on.
- Verify that the brightness or contrast control dials are adjusted correctly. (See the manual that came with your display for details.)
- Confirm that the computer is not in stand by mode.

Why did my computer or software stop responding?

You can try to locate and close the software application that has stopped responding.

1. Press the **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** keys. The Windows Task Manager window appears.
2. From the Applications tab, locate the application that has the status message, "**Not responding**."
3. Select the application that has a Not Responding status and click **End Task**. Windows attempts to close the application.

If your computer does not respond or the application does not close, try the following steps:

1. Save any open files, if possible.
2. Press the **Alt+F4** keys. The Turn Off Computer window appears.
3. Click **Restart**.

If your computer still does not respond and you cannot restart, shut down your computer by pressing and holding the power button for more than six seconds.

If the software application continues to stop responding or causes your computer to stop responding, contact the software publisher or designated technical support provider.

Pressing and holding the power button for more than six seconds, may result in the loss of data from files that are currently open.

Why does the Windows operating system stop responding during shutdown?

The Windows operating system may not shut down properly for many reasons, including incompatible or conflicting drivers, damaged files, or non-responsive hardware. For troubleshooting information, you can search Windows Help.

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar and select **Help and Support**. The VAIO Help and Support Center menu appears.
2. Select **Fixing a Problem** and then select **Startup and Shut Down problems**. A list of specific problem topics appears on the right side of the dialog box.
3. Select **Startup and Shutdown Troubleshooter**. Follow the on-screen instructions according to your specific situation.

I cannot find the Windows taskbar.

The Windows taskbar may be hidden or minimized.

- Use the mouse to locate a hidden taskbar by pointing to the left, right, top, and bottom edges of the screen. The taskbar appears when the cursor is placed over its location.

  1. Right-click on the taskbar and select **Properties** from the shortcut menu.
  2. Clear the check box for **Auto-hide** the taskbar, then click **OK**.

- Use the mouse to locate a minimized taskbar by pointing to the left, right, top and bottom edges of the display screen. The taskbar has been located when the cursor changes to a double arrow cursor. Left-click and drag away from the edge of the display screen. The minimized taskbar resizes and becomes visible.

Why is my system running slowly?

- The system responsiveness varies depending with the number of applications that are open and running. Close any applications that you are not currently using.
- Increasing the system memory may also help.

How do I change the video resolution of my display?

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar and then select **Control Panel**.
2. Select **Appearances and Themes**, then select **Change the screen resolution**.
3. Click the **Settings** tab.
4. Change the Screen resolution and Color quality to the desired levels.
5. Click **Apply** and then click **OK**.

How do I change the parallel port type to ECP, EPP, or bi-directional?

You can change the parallel port[2] type using the System Setup utility (CMOS Setup Utility). To access System Setup:

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar and select **Turn Off Computer**. Select **Restart**.
2. When the Sony screen displays, press the F2 key on your keyboard.
3. Select the **Advanced** tab from the **Setup Utility** screen.
4. Select **I/O Device Configuration** and press Enter.
5. Use the arrow keys to highlight **Parallel Port Mode** and press Enter.

   ✍ You can toggle between the Normal (bi-directional), EPP, ECP, and ECP+EPP options using the directional arrow keys.

6. Select the desired setting displays, and press Enter.
7. Press the **F10** key to Save and Exit.

Where can I find a listing of my computer's preinstalled hardware?

You can find details about the drives, cards, and memory modules that are installed on your system by viewing the online specifications sheet. This online document describes the hardware configuration of your VAIO computer.

To access the online specifications sheet:

1. Click **Start** in the Windows® taskbar and click **Help and Support**.
2. From the **VAIO Help and Support Center** menu, click **VAIO User Guide**.

3. Click the **Welcome** link. The Welcome page displays on the right.

4. Locate the link in the text, "View the VAIO® Computer Specifications..."

[1] Certain VAIO computers are not equipped with a floppy disk drive. You can purchase this equipment separately.

[2] Your VAIO computer may not be equipped with a parallel port. See the online specifications sheet for details on your computer's hardware configuration.

About Software

Your computer may not be supplied with all of the software discussed in this section, depending on the system configuration you purchased.

How do I create an audio CD with preinstalled Sony software?

Your VAIO® computer has SonicStage software preinstalled on your computer. SonicStage is a digital music management software that enables you work with digital music from audio CDs and from the Internet. You can play music on your computer, create custom audio CDs, and check music out to compatible digital music devices.

SonicStage software employs OpenMG copyright protection technology and advanced ATRAC3 audio file format to allow you to enjoy digital music while protecting the rights of copyright holders.

To access SonicStage software Help

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, and click **All Programs**.
2. Point to **SonicStage**, and click **SonicStage**.
3. On the **Help** menu, click **SonicStage Help**.

How do I use the System Restore feature in Windows XP?

System Restore is a feature of the Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system that enables you to restore your computer to a previous state, if a problem occurs. System Restore provides the following support:

- Restores your system to a previous state.
- Restores without erasing your personal data files.
- Creates restore points daily and when software applications or utilities are installed.
- Maintains storage of one to three weeks of past restore points.
- Enables you to create your own custom restore points.
- Locates the dates associated with the restore points.
- Performs restorations that are reversible.
- Enables different types of restore points.

To Use the System Restore Wizard

1. Click **Start** in the Windows® taskbar and click **Help and Support**. The VAIO Help and Support window appears.
2. Under **Pick a Help topic**, click **Performance and maintenance**.
3. Under **Performance and maintenance**, click **Using System Restore** to undo changes. A submenu appears on the right.
4. Under **Pick a task**, click **Run the System Restore Wizard**. The System Restore wizard dialog box appears.
5. Follow the on-screen instructions to restore your system or create a custom restore point.

How do I copy files to a recordable CD or DVD?

You can copy files to CD-R or CD-RW media, using the installed CD-RW or DVD-RW drive[1].

To copy files and folders to a CD using Windows XP

1. Insert a blank CD-R or CD-RW disc into your CD-RW or DVD-RW drive. (If the CD Drive window appears, click **Take no action**.)
2. Click **Start** in the Windows® taskbar and click **My Computer**. Locate the files and folders you want to copy to the

CD.

3. Point to select a file or folder, or select several files or folders by holding down the CTRL key while pointing to each of the files you want.

4. Under **File and Folder Tasks**, click **Copy this file**, **Copy this folder**, or **Copy the selected items**.

   If the files are located in My Pictures, under **Picture Tasks**, click **Copy to CD** or **Copy all items to CD**. Skip to step 6.

   If your files are located in My Music, under **Music Tasks**, click **Copy to audio CD** or **Copy all items to audio CD**. Skip to step 6.

5. In the **Copy Items** dialog box, click the **read/write drive** icon[2], and click **Copy**.

6. Under **Other Places**, click **My Computer**, and click the **CD-RW** or **DVD-RW drive**.

   Windows displays the temporary area that holds the files until they are copied to the CD.

7. Confirm that the files and folders you want to copy are displayed under Files Ready to Be Written to the CD.

8. Click **Write to CD**, under **CD Writing Tasks**. The CD Writing Wizard starts.

9. Follow the instructions in the wizard to complete writing the files or folders to the CD.

   When the writing process is finished, the wizard displays a check box that enables you to copy another CD. To create additional copies, click **Yes, write these files to another CD**, insert a blank CD-R or CD-RW disc, and click **Next**.

To copy files to a DVD using preinstalled software

If your VAIO® computer is equipped with a DVD-RW drive, you can copy files to DVD-R or DVD-RW media using the preinstalled DVD burning software[3].

To learn more about creating DVDs, refer to *Creating DVDs* **—** an online guide that provides information designed to help you become familiar with your DVD-RW drive and the DVD recording software applications included with your computer.

To access this online information:

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **Help and Support**.

2. From the VAIO Help and Support Center menu, click **Creating DVDs**.

Where can I find a listing of my computer's preinstalled software titles?

You can find details about the software that is preinstalled on your system by viewing the online specifications sheet. This online document describes the preinstalled software on your VAIO computer.

To access the online specifications sheet

1. Click **Start** in the Windows® taskbar and click **Help and Support**.

2. From the **VAIO Help and Support Center** menu, click **VAIO User Guide**.

3. Click the **Welcome** link. The Welcome page displays on the right.

4. Locate the link in the text, "View the VAIO® Computer Specifications..."

[1] Unauthorized duplication of audio or video files is a violation of applicable laws.

[2] The read/write drive letter designation may vary, depending your system's hardware configuration.

[3] Unauthorized duplication of audio or video files is a violation of applicable laws.

About Using the Optical Disc Drive(s)

Use care in opening and closing your optical disc drive tray to avoid damage to the drive or drive cover. When you press the eject button, the drive tray may not imediately open because it is has not finished reading or writing to the CD or DVD. Wait a moment to permit the optical drive to finish accessing the CD or DVD media.

Your computer may not be equipped with all of the hardware features listed in this section. To view the specific hardware configuration for your system, see the online specifications sheet.

Why doesn't my optical drive tray open?

To use the Eject button

1. Make sure the computer is turned on.
2. Press the Eject button on the drive.

To use the My Computer icon

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then select **My Computer**.
2. Right-click the appropriate optical drive icon.
3. Select **Eject** from the shortcut menu.

Avoid using adhesive labels to identify your CD or DVD media. Adhesive labels may come off while the CD or DVD media is in use in your optical drive(s) and may cause damage to the unit.

The message, "You must insert the application CD into your drive" appears and the software does not start.

- Some software applications require specific files that are located on the application's CD. Try inserting the disc and starting the program again.
- Check to make sure you inserted the CD correctly, with the label side facing up.

Why can't I play a DVD or CD media?

- After inserting your CD or DVD, wait a few seconds for the system to detect it before trying to access it.
- Confirm that the disc is in the tray with the label side facing up.
- Install your CD or DVD software according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If your drive reads some DVDs or CDs, but not others, check the shiny side of the disc for dirt or scratches.

To recover the CD or DVD software applications that are preinstalled on your computer, see Application Recovery for more information.

Why isn't my DVD playing properly?

If a region code warning appears when you are using the DVD player application, it may be that the region code of the DVD you are trying to play is incompatible with the region code setting of your optical drive. A region code is listed on the disc packaging. Region code indicators such as "1" or "ALL" are labeled on some DVDs to indicate the type of player that can play the disc. Unless a "1" or "ALL" appears on the DVD or on its packaging, you cannot play the disc on this system.

If you hear audio but cannot see video, your computer's video resolution may be set too high. To improve video resolution, verify that your screen area is set to 1024 x 768[1], using 32-bit color (preset factory default). To verify or change your video resolution:

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar and then select **Control Panel**.
2. Select **Appearances and Themes**, then select **Change the screen resolution**.
3. Click the **Settings** tab.

4. Change the Screen resolution and Color quality to the desired levels.
5. Click **Apply** and then click **OK**.

If you see video but cannot hear audio, check all of the following:

- Verify that your DVD player's mute feature is turned off.
- Check the master volume setting in the Audio Mixer.
- Check the volume settings on your computer speakers.
- Check the connections between your speakers and the computer.
- Verify that drivers are installed properly, by following these steps:
    1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then select **Control Panel**.
    2. Click **Performance and Maintenance** and then click **Systems**. The System Properties dialog box appears.
    3. Select the **Hardware** tab and then select the **Device Manager** button to view installed drivers.

A dirty or damaged disc may also cause the computer to stop responding while it tries to read the disc. If necessary, remove the disc and check that it is not dirty or damaged.

To recover the CD or DVD software applications that are preinstalled on your computer, see Application Recovery for more information.

Why doesn't my recordable optical drive (DVD-RW/CD-RW) record to CD-RW media?

If you are having difficulty with writing, erasing, or formatting on your CD-RW media, the reason may be that the media is not compatible with your high-speed CD-RW drive. Sony recommends using CD-RW media that is identified as "high-speed" (4X or higher) for maximum performance and compatibility.

[1] The VAIO "W" series computer uses 1280 x 768 for the default video resolution setting.

About the Mouse and Keyboard

Why doesn't my mouse work properly?

- Confirm that the mouse is plugged securely into the mouse port. If you are using a USB mouse, verify that the mouse is plugged securely into the appropriate USB port.
- Save and close all open applications. Turn off your computer, wait approximately 10 seconds, and then restart your computer.
- If you are using an optical mouse, use an appropriate surface to ensure proper mouse tracking. A good mouse surface requires a certain amount of detail or texture to enable mouse tracking.
  - Use surfaces such as plain paper, card stock, or fabric that do not have a lot of repetitive patterning.
  - Avoid surfaces such as mirrors, smooth glass, or magazines.
  - Avoid possible damage to easily-scratched surfaces by using a mouse pad.
  - Avoid surfaces that may damage or soil your optical mouse. Dirt or damage may cause the mouse to malfunction.
  - If the cursor is not moving properly, try using the mouse on another mousing surface or using a mouse pad.
- There may be dust or dirt inside the mouse mechanism. To clean the mouse, follow these steps:
  - Save and close all applications, and turn off your computer.
  - Turn the mouse upside down.
  - Remove the mouse ball cover on the back of the mouse by turning clockwise the ring that covers the mouse ball.
  - Turn the mouse upright, and drop the mouse ball into your hand.
  - Using a piece of tape, remove any dust or dirt on the mouse ball and inside the mouse ball socket.
  - Return the mouse ball to the socket, and replace the mouse ball cover. Secure the cover by turning the ring counter-clockwise.

You may need to reinstall the mouse drivers. See Application Recovery to reinstall VAIO Driver.

How do I set up my mouse for left-hand use?

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Printers and Other Hardware**, then click **Mouse**. The Mouse Properties dialog box appears.
3. From the **Buttons** tab, select **Switch primary and secondary buttons** under the Button Configuration options.
4. Click **Apply**, then click **OK**.

Why doesn't my keyboard work properly?

- Check that the keyboard[1] is securely plugged into the keyboard port.
- Save and close all open applications. Turn off your computer, wait approximately 10 seconds, and then restart your computer.

[1] The VAIO "W" series computer has a built-in keyboard.

About the Modem

Why is my modem connection slow?

Many factors influence modem connection speed:

- Telephone line noise
- Incompatibility with other telephone equipment such as fax machines or other modems.
- Internet Service Providers (ISP) connection capability may vary.

If you think your modem is not connecting properly to other PC-based modems, fax machines, or your ISP, check the following:

- Contact your telephone company and ask them to verify that your telephone line is free from line noise.
- If your problem is fax-related, check that there are no problems with the fax machine you are calling and that it is compatible with fax modems.
- For optimum performance, verify that your ISP point of presence (POP) telephone number is compliant with V.90 standards.
- If you are having a problem connecting with your ISP, check that they are not experiencing technical problems.
- Try connecting your modem through another telephone line, if available.

Why doesn't my modem work properly?

Your modem may be experiencing equipment or software conflicts. If your modem is not functioning properly, check the following:

- Check that the telephone line is plugged into the modem line jack.
- Check that the telephone line is working properly. You can verify the line by plugging in an external device such as a standard telephone or fax machine and listening for a dial tone.
- Check that the access telephone number (POP) is correct.
- All software applications that are preinstalled by Sony are compatible with your computer's modem. If you have installed other software, contact the software publisher for information on how to configure the software in order to recognize the modem.
- If it appears that your modem is not functioning properly, check the device status.

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Printers and Other Hardware** and then select **Phone and Modem Options**.
3. From the **Modems** tab, click to select your modem.
4. Click **Properties**. The Modem Properties window appears.
5. Review the information in the Device status section. If your modem is not working properly, click the **Troubleshoot** button. The VAIO Help and Support Center window appears.
6. Follow the on-screen instructions to resolve the problem.

You may need to reinstall the modem drivers. See Application Recovery to reinstall VAIO Driver.

How do I change my modem to rotary or Touch-tone dialing?

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Printers and Other Hardware**, then click **Phone and Modem options**.
3. From the **Dialing Rules** tab, click **Edit**. The Edit Location dialog box appears.

4. Select the **Tone** or **Pulse** option. Click **OK**.

About the Speakers

Why is there no sound in any application?

- Check that the speakers are plugged into the Headphones jack.
- If your speakers have a mute button, verify that it is turned off.
- If your speakers are powered by batteries, verify that the batteries are inserted properly and that they are charged.
- If your speakers use an external power source, verify that the power cord is plugged into a grounded wall outlet or power strip.
- If your speakers have volume control, check the volume level.
- You cannot hear sound from your speakers if headphones are connected to your computer.
- If the software application you are using has its own volume control, check that the volume is turned up.
- Verify that the mute button on your keyboard is turned off. The mute button is located above the function keys. Use the keyboard's volume controls to adjust the volume level.
- Check the volume controls in the Windows® operating system using these steps:

  1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then select **Control Panel**.
  2. Select **Sounds, Speech, and Audio Devices**, then click **Adjust the system volume**.
  3. From the **Volume** tab, adjust the Device volume by moving the slider bar to the desired sound level. Verify that the Mute option is not selected.

- Check that the Mute check box is not selected in the Windows volume control.

You may need to reinstall the sound drivers. See Application Recovery to reinstall VAIO Driver.

About Using a Microphone

Why doesn't my microphone work properly?

Check that the microphone is plugged into the Microphone jack.

Why is my microphone so sensitive to background noise?

If you find there is too much background noise when you record sound, you should adjust the microphone gain by following these steps:

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Sounds, Speech, and Audio Devices**, then click **Sounds and Audio Devices**.
3. From the **Audio** tab, locate the Sound recording section and click **Volume**. The Recording Control dialog box appears.
4. Select the **Options** menu and click **Properties**. The Properties dialog box appears.
5. In the section, **Adjust volume for**, select the **Recording** option. Click **OK**.
6. From the **Recording Control** dialog box, decrease the microphone volume level by moving the slider bar down.
7. Close the **Recording Control** dialog box and then close the **Sounds and Audio Devices Properties** window.

About Using Peripheral Equipment

How do I install a printer?

- Connect your USB or IEEE 1394 printer to the appropriate port on your computer's front, back or covers[1]. If your printer has a USB, IEEE 1394, or infrared connection, contact the printer manufacturer for information or updates that may be required for proper installation.
- Check the printer manufacturer's Web site for the latest drivers for your operating system before proceeding with installation. Some printers do not function properly without the updated drivers for specific operating systems.
- To install your printer, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, then click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Printers and Other Hardware**, then click **Add a Printer**.
3. From the **Add Printer Wizard**, click **Next**.
4. Select **Local Printer**, then click **Next**.

✍ Place a check mark in the box for "Automatically detect and install my Plug and Play printer", if you are installing a recently manufactured printer with Plug and Play capability.

5. Select the appropriate port, usually LPT1, and then click **Next**.
6. Select the appropriate printer manufacturer and model.
7. Follow the on-screen instructions to print a test page and complete printer installation.

✍ If the printer is not included in the list and the printer manufacturer included a disk with a Windows XP Printer driver, choose **Have Disk**, enter the appropriate path for the disk or CD and click **OK**.

If the printer is not included on the list and no drivers are included with the printer, choose an alternate printer driver that your printer may emulate. Refer to the manual that came with your printer for specific emulation information.

The connected printer does not function properly when the computer resumes from a powersaving mode.

- Clear the printer memory by turning the printer off for approximately 10 seconds, and then turning it back on.
- If the printer does not resume normal operation, try restarting your computer.

[1] The location of the connection ports for peripheral equipment may vary, depending upon your computer's hardware configuration.

Notes On Use

The information in this section provides basic procedures for handling your system and common peripheral devices, using storage media, and locating upgrade procedures. A support resource listing is also provided to help you locate the appropriate support options.

- About the Power Source
- About Disposing of the Lithium Battery
- About Handling the Computer System
- About Handling a Monitor (Display)
- About DVD, CD, and Floppy Disk Media

About the Power Source

Before opening your computer, turn the system off and let it cool down for 10 minutes. This protects you against internal components that may be too hot to handle.

- Your computer operates on 120 V AC 50/60 Hz.
- Plug all the power cords for your computer and its peripheral equipment into the same AC supply line. AC derived from different supply lines may result in voltage differences that can cause unstable operation or unwanted weak currents at the time of connection.
- Do not share the AC outlet with any other power-consuming equipment, such as copying machines or shredders.
- You can purchase a power strip with a surge protector. This device prevents damage to your computer caused by sudden power surges such as those that may occur during an electrical storm.
- If you live in an area that experiences frequent power fluctuations, you may want to purchase an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). This device contains both a surge protector and a battery backup. The surge protector prevents damage to your computer caused by power surges. The battery backup safeguards your data during a brief period of power loss.
- The power control button on the front panel does not turn off the system AC power. To remove power from the system, you must turn off the computer and then unplug the AC power cord from the wall outlet or power strip.
- Do not place heavy objects on the power cord.
- Do not operate the system with the cover removed. Always reinstall the cover before turning on the system.
- To disconnect the cord, pull it out by the plug. Never pull the cord itself.
- Unplug your computer from the wall outlet if you will not be using the computer for a long time.
- Do not attempt to open the power supply. There are no user-serviceable parts in the power supply. To avoid personal injury or damage to your equipment, refer the repair or replacement of the power supply to qualified personnel only.

About Disposing of the Lithium Battery

Dispose of the lithium battery properly. In some areas, the disposal of lithium batteries in household or business trash may be prohibited. You can return your unwanted lithium batteries to your nearest Sony Service Center or Factory Service Center. For the Sony Service Center nearest you, visit the Sony Computing Support Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.

Do not handle damaged or leaking lithium batteries. The lithium battery may explode if mistreated. Do not disassemble it or dispose of it in fire.

Replace the battery with a Sony CR2032 lithium battery. Using a type of battery other than a CR2032 may present a risk of fire or explosion.

About Handling the Computer System

Your computer uses high-frequency radio signals and may cause interference to radio or TV reception. If this occurs, relocate the computer a suitable distance away from the TV or radio equipment.

- Do not place your Sony computer in a location subject to:
  - Heat sources, such as radiators or air ducts
  - Direct sunlight
  - Excessive dust
  - Mechanical vibration or shock
  - Strong magnets or speakers that are not magnetically shielded
  - Ambient temperature of more than 95ºF (35ºC) or less than 50ºF (10ºC)
  - High humidity, moisture, or rain
- Do not place electronic equipment near your computer. The computer's electromagnetic field may cause a malfunction.
- Provide adequate air circulation to prevent internal heat build-up. Do not place your computer on loose surfaces (such as rugs or blankets) or near materials (such as curtains or draperies) that may block its ventilation slots. Leave a space of at least 8 inches from the back panel of your computer.
- Clean the cabinet with a soft, dry cloth or a soft cloth lightly moistened with a mild detergent solution. Do not use any type of abrasive pad, scouring powder, or solvent such as alcohol or benzine, as it may damage the finish of your Sony computer.
- Should any solid object or liquid fall into the cabinet, keyboard, or mouse, shut down your computer and then unplug it. You may want to have the computer checked by qualified personnel before operating it any further.
- Use only specified peripheral equipment and interface cables; otherwise, problems may result.
- Do not use cut or damaged connection cables.
- Always switch the power off before connecting your computer to peripheral equipment; otherwise, damage may occur to the integrated circuits in your computer.
- Your computer, keyboard, and mouse consist of high-precision electronic parts. Do not drop them or bump them against other objects.
- Your Sony computer will not work with party lines, cannot be connected to a coin-operated telephone, and may not work with multiple telephone lines or a private branch exchange (PBX).
- If the telephone company makes a service call to your home or office and determines that your computer is responsible for the problem, the telephone company may bill you for the service call. If you do not disconnect your computer when it is adversely affecting the telephone line, the telephone company has the right to disconnect your service until you correct the problem.

Moisture condensation

If your computer is brought directly from a cold location to a warm one, moisture may condense inside your computer. In this case, allow at least an hour before turning on your computer. If any problem occurs, unplug your computer, and contact your Sony Service Center.

The hard disk drive

- Your computer's hard disk has 5 GB allocated to a special recovery partition. This hard disk space is not available for use. See the section, Using the VAIO Recovery Wizard for more information about hard disk drive partitions.
- Do not place the computer in a location that is subject to vibration or shock.
- Do not move the computer during operation.
- Do not subject the computer to sudden changes in temperature.

- Do not turn off the power while the computer is accessing the hard disk drive.

The optical disc drives

Your computer is equipped with two optical disc drives that have a drive eject button on the drive door.

- After pushing the eject button, wait for the drive to stop reading the CD. It may take a few moments for the drive tray to eject.
- Gently push the drive tray in, when closing the optical drive door. Do not force the door or handle roughly.
- After closing the drive door, wait a few moments for the drive to begin reading the CD.

About Handling a Monitor (Display)

- Do not change the display refresh rate to 85 Hz, as DVD playback and the DVgate software may not function correctly. Sony recommends that you keep your display at the preset, optimal refresh rate (75 Hz).
- Do not place the display near a strong magnetic force.
- Do not block the ventilation slots on the display.
- Using the computer in low temperature conditions may produce a residual image on the screen. This is not a malfunction. When the computer returns to normal temperature, the screen returns to normal.
- A residual image may appear on the screen if the same image is displayed for a lengthy period of time. The image disappears after a period of time. You can use a screen saver to prevent residual images.
- The screen becomes warm during operation. This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

About DVD, CD, and Floppy Disk Media

Handling CD or DVD media

- Do not touch the surface of the disc.
- Do not drop or bend the disc.
- Do not use adhesive labels to identify the disc. The label may come off while the disc is in use in the optical drive and damage the drive.

Cleaning CD or DVD media

- Fingerprints and dust on the surface of a disc may cause read errors. Proper care of the disc is essential to maintain its reliability. Do not use solvents such as benzine, thinner, commercially available cleaners or anti-static spray, as they may cause damage to the disc.
- For normal cleaning, hold the disc by its edge and use a soft cloth to wipe the surface from the center out.
- If the disc is badly soiled, moisten a soft cloth with water, wring it out well, and use it to wipe the surface of the disc from the center out. Wipe off any remaining moisture with a dry soft cloth.

Handling floppy disks[1]

- Do not open the shutter manually and touch the surface of the floppy disk.
- Keep floppy disks away from magnets.
- Keep floppy disks away from direct sunlight and other heat sources.

[1] The VAIO "W" series computer is not equipped with a floppy disk drive. You can purchase a floppy disk drive separately.

Support Options

Sony provides several options to help solve common problems or to locate technical support for your VAIO® computer. This section describes all available resources and offers suggestions on how to access this information for maximum results.

- Immediate Help and Support
- Software Help and Support
- Contacting Sony for Help and Support

Immediate Help and Support

You can locate helpful information immediately by consulting your hard copy guides and supplements, or by accessing the online Computer User Guide and the individual software Help files.

Your computer is supplied with these support options:

- **VAIO® Computer Quick Start —** The Quick Start contains information on how to set up your computer quickly and easily. You can find instructions on how to plan an ergonomic work space, connect power cords, cables and peripheral devices, register your computer with Sony, and establish a dial-up connection to the Internet. The Quick Start can also provide troubleshooting support, if problems occur.

- **VAIO Computer User Guide —** The online User Guide[1] provides information about configuring, maintaining, and upgrading your computer. This support resource offers a variety of available topics, enabling you to quickly view specific information using context-sensitive search features.

  To access the online User Guide:

  1. Click **Start** in the Windows® taskbar
  2. Click **Help and Support**. The VAIO Help and Support Center menu appears.
  3. Click **VAIO User Guide**.

- **Specifications —** The online specifications sheet lists the hardware configuration and preinstalled software applications of your VAIO computer. You can view your system's processor speed, determine the amount of installed memory, identify optical drive specifications, and more.

  To access the online specification sheet:

  1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar and click **Help and Support**.
  2. From the VAIO Help and Support Center, click **VAIO User Guide**.
  3. Click **Welcome** from the menu displayed in the right frame.
  4. Locate the link in the text, "View the VAIO® Computer Specifications..."

- **Preinstalled software Help files[2] —** Each preinstalled software application provides online Help that describes the software's features. In these Help files, you can find tutorials that teach you to use the software and locate troubleshooting support, should problems occur.

  To access software Help files:

  1. Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar and point to **All Programs**. A submenu appears, listing all preinstalled software applications.
  2. Click the desired software application.[3] The software's main window appears.
  3. From the menu bar, click **Help**. The Help file appears.

[1] A hardcopy version of the VAIO Computer User Guide is provided with selected models.

[2] A hardcopy software manual may available for certain software applications.

[3] You can locate the online Help files for Sony software applications by pointing to the individual application's icon and selecting Help from the submenu.

Software Help and Support

When you have questions about your computer and the preinstalled software, check with these software publishers to access troubleshooting support from the publisher's Web site, by e-mail, or by telephone.

Your computer may not be supplied with all of the software discussed in this section, depending on the system configuration you purchased. To view the specific software preinstalled on your computer, see the online specifications sheet.

Adobe® Acrobat® Reader®, Photoshop® Elements (On selected models), Premiere® LE (On selected models) (Adobe Systems Inc.)

Web site http://www.adobe.com/

phone 206-675-6126 (fee-based support)

fax 206-628-5737

e-mail techdocs@adobe.com

hours M-F, 6 AM-5 PM PST

Adobe® Photoshop® Elements (Trial Version available on selected models) (Adobe Systems Inc.)

Web site http://www.adobe.com

**America Online®
(America Online, Inc.)**

Web site http://www.aol.com

phone 800-827-6364

hours 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

**EarthLink℠ Total Access®
(EarthLink, Inc.)**

Web site http://help.earthlink.net/techsupport

phone 800-395-8410

e-mail support@earthlink.net

hours 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

**Microsoft® Windows® XP, Internet Explorer, Outlook® Express, Works (On selected models) Office XP (On selected models)
(Microsoft Corp.)**

Web site http://www.sony.com/pcsupport

**McAfee Antivirus
(Norton Utilities.)**

Web site(s) http://www.mcafee.com/support/default.asp

phone (900) 733-8255 Phone support is $2.95 per minute.

hours 5AM-11PM PST

Quicken® 2003 New User Edition
(Intuit Inc.)

Web site http://www.intuit.com/support

phone 900-555-4932; 800-644-3193*

hours M-F, 5 A.M.-5 P.M. (Pacific time)

* Support from 900-555-4932 is fee-based. Support from 800-644-3193 is automated and free of charge.

RecordNow DX
(VERITAS Software Corp.)

Web site http://www.easy.co.jp/jrndx/sony

Sony Software
(Sony Electronics Inc.)

Web site http://www.sony.com/pcsupport

WordPerfect® Office 2002 Standard (On selected models)
(Corel Corp.)

Web site http://www.corel.com

phone 613-274-0500

hours M-F, 8:30 A.M.-7:30 P.M. (Eastern time)

Sony Service Center

To locate the Sony Service Center nearest you, visit the Sony Computing Support Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport. Computing support is free of charge for 90 days after the original date of purchase.

Contacting Sony for Help and Support

If the information provided with your VAIO® computer does not provide an immediate solution, or you would like to get direct support, contact Sony online or by telephone.

Sony Computing Support Web site

Online help and support are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, when you visit the Sony Computing Support Web site. You can access the Web site at http://www.sony.com/pcsupport.

The Sony Computing Support Web site provides

- Information about your specific model computer, such as
    1. hardware and software specifications.
    2. upgrade and maintenance procedures.
    3. safety and legal information.
    4. quick solutions to common problems.
- An automated tutorial library that contains interactive, easy-to-understand lessons on using your computer's hardware and software features.
- Links that enable you to
    1. quickly find the nearest Sony service center locations.
    2. arrange for repairs or check repair status.
    3. review warranty information.
    4. e-mail your question or comments to the Sony Customer Information Services Center.
    5. check pricing and availability for products, accessories and parts, as well as purchase online.
    6. access the Sony Solutions Knowledge Base, a database that contains answers to many frequently asked questions.

Sony Customer Information Services Center

If other support options do not resolve your issue, you can contact a Sony Support representative directly.

Before making a call to the Sony Customer Information Services Center, have this basic information readily available.

1. VAIO® computer system type
2. Model number
3. Serial number[1]
4. Operating system
5. Hardware feature or software application that has a problem. (See Software Help and Support for the appropriate software contact information.)
6. Brief description of the issue.

For VAIO® computers purchased in the U.S. and Canada, contact a Sony Support representative at 1-888-476-6972.

[1] The serial number is located on the back panel of your computer. The serial number is on a white barcode label.